



Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Province
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Fall 2019
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From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

Hello Carmelites,

Praised be Jesus Christ – now and forever.

Here's what's up for the OCDS:

Provincial Council replacements

Fr Stephen Sanchez has appointed Mark Calvert of Knoxville, Maxine Latiolais of New Iberia, and Barbara Basgall of Oklahoma City to serve on the Provincial Council beginning January 26, 2020. They will be replacing Jo Ann Murphy, John Stevens, and Claire Bloodgood. Please keep the PC in prayer during this “changing of the guard.”

2020 Council Elections

It's about that time! Please review Statutes Section XVI on elections. We've included it in this edition of the Flos for quick reference on Pages 8-9.

Communities need to have their nominating committees in place three months before their elections. Please see the article on the Nominating Committee on Page 10 for more information.

Spiritual Assistants

Fr Stephen has asked the PC to remind the OCDS communities that Spiritual Assistants are appointed by the Provincial, that the term is for three years at a time, and that incoming Councils need to ask the Provincial for re-appointment (or new appointment) at the beginning of each Triennium.

Update on the US OCDS formation guidelines

The Formation Task Force has received feedback on the Aspirancy program from representatives of the three US provinces and will work on incorporating their suggestions.

The first year of Formation I is nearly complete. When the whole two-year program is ready, Fr Alzinir will review it and make any needed changes. It, too, will be reviewed by experienced formators in the three US provinces.

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From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

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Meanwhile, continue to use the 2004 Provincial Formation Guidelines located at: <http://www.thereocds.org/legislation/>

2021 OCDS Congress hosted by the Oklahoma Province

Most of the teams are in place and have been working away on various congress projects. Any communities that have not stepped up are encouraged to contact Laura Durant to see how they can help. Don't miss out on this occasion to serve your Carmelite family. See Pages 26-27 for updates.

The Provincial Council members very much appreciate your prayers for us as we strive to serve you.

You are in our prayers as always.

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 Jillison Parks, OCDS*



†

Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary, that
never was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thine
intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee, O Virgin of
virgins, my mother;
to thee do I come, before thee
I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word
Incarnate, despise not my
petitions, but in thy mercy hear
and answer me. Amen.

Report of the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

A Thing from Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

You'll notice I haven't entitled this whatever-it-is the "Provincial Delegate's Report." Why, you ask? Well, I'm not really acting as Provincial Delegate anymore. Our Provincial, Fr. Stephen Sánchez, has taken up that call—and gladly, it seems, for he's come to admire the Seculars and likes working with you.



He's participating in the monthly teleconference of your Provincial Council, for example, as well as representing the friars in the planning and preparation of the 2021 OCDS Congress in Houston. I'm very appreciative of his taking up this responsibility since he'll do a fine job for you. To give one example of his thoroughness, we spoke recently about his trying to address the matter of Spiritual Assistants in the Province, something he fully intends to tackle, but which I, in my cowardice, shied away from, adding years to my stay in Purgatory.

I have no intention of just fading away, though, and hope to continue to give your communities retreats or days of recollection, as well as presiding at professions when asked. In fact, I hope to be asked frequently, even to being asked to come simply by for a visit—nothing formal, just friendly. So, please ask. I'm happy to continue to be of service in whatever way I can, which means in whatever way you ask me.

Speaking of retreats, I gave my first retreat since the surgery just a couple weeks ago to the community of New Iberia, LA. We gathered at the Jesuit Spirituality Center at Grand Coteau, LA, a place I can recommend to you if you're ever of a mind to make a private retreat somewhere. We were joined by some members of the two Lafayette communities, and it was a real joy to see all these Cajun Carmelites again. It had been a while.

They treated me very gently, with a light schedule and attentive faces and some good questions and comments. Yes, it was good to be back in the saddle again. It's always a delight to speak of things I know a thing or two about and relish sharing about and think of importance with those who are responsive and already pretty knowledgeable themselves.

On to another piece of news. This past week all the friars of the province—there are only 15 of us, believe it or not—met in Dallas, at the Mt. Carmel Center. It was a special meeting, planned as part of the soul-searching/restructuring we've been pursuing for these two-plus years of the present Triennium.

At this meeting, we mostly worked in three committees. These were—(1) a committee to formulate the eventualities that would most likely befall us if we failed to act and simply did nothing, (2) a committee to assess the means we have to choose otherwise and do something, going forward and making the necessary changes to avert our falling into these fatal eventualities, and (3) a committee to prepare both a Mission Statement, to be used to guide us going forward, and a plan

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Report from the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

(Continued from page 3)

that utilizes the means we have before us to help us avoid simply doing nothing and therefore falling into these looming eventualities. It sounds complicated, and in a sense it is, but at least the majority of us understand what we're doing and why.

I'm on the third of the three committees, and our work is halfway done. We've formulated a Mission Statement, tweaked it a bit at this meeting, presented it to the Province as a whole, who then tweaked it further, and called it a job well done. Now we turn to the second half our work, the plan for proceeding forward.

For that we need to wait till the other two committees have finished their work since the plan we develop needs to be based on the negative scenarios prepared by Committee 1 and on the assessment of available means outlined by Committee 2. And these committees are not yet finished with their work. Our hope, of course, is to have the whole process completed, and the plan in place, by the time of our Provincial Chapter in late May/early June of next year.



The photo above shows the friars gathering for one of our meetings during this gathering. Starting at the right are: Fr. Ralph, Reyes, Fr. Henry Bordeaux—the two are talking—Fr. Jesus Sancho and Fr. Jenaro de la Cruz—both originally from Spain—Fr. Jerome Earley, Fr. Luis Joaquin Casteñeda—in street clothes, or “camouflage,” as I call it—Fr. Stephen Sanchez, the Provincial—bent over his notes—Fr. Jim Curiel and Fr. Gregory Ross. Missing are: Fr. Marion Bui—being fashionably late—and, out of the frame of the photo, Fr. Sam Anthony Morello—sitting next to Fr. Ralph, though you can't see him—then, at the table just beyond the picture, Fr. John Magdalene Suenram and Fr. Jorge Cabrera. Of course, I was taking the photo. You can see my things—iPad, notebook, glasses case, paper cup, and earbuds—there at the table where I was sitting.

Here's a little poetry for you. I've taken up Phil 2:6-11—the NT Canticle given for Evening Prayer I—and used it as the basis or backbone of a rewrite. And, at the place where the original says “even death on a cross,” I inserted an extended passage from the Passion Story, which I also finessed.

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Report from the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

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Philippians 2:6-11 ~an expanded version

He sat at God's table, ate God's bread,
Drank God's wine; he knew he was welcome
As God's dearly beloved. But he knew, too,
That he was there at the Father's table

Only at the Father's good pleasure—the Father's
Pleasure being to love him. Thus, he held
No illusions about any merits of his own,
Any particular self-importance or self-worth.

When asked, therefore, he rose and left,
Descending the long spiral staircase till
He reached the bottom and stepped out on
The wintry, frozen earth. Now what to do,

He asked? He got a job making widgets, one
After another; working for peanuts, he put
In his hours, punched his card, and lifted
A few beers with the bros after work.

He saw all around him the pained smiles
Of women, wives, and mothers, the angry eyes
Of husbands and fathers, the hopes and desires
Come to nothing of children now adults—

He saw, that is, the anguish suffered by so many,
Their spirits withered like weeds in a blighted field,
Or the muteness of mourners struck mute
By the blank, stone faces of those they mourn.

Through it all he grew weary in heart and soul,
Hobbled in body, ready to succumb to the logic
Of life's pointlessness by slipping into despair as if
It were a bathrobe. Instead, he shook it off,



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Report from the Provincial Delegate

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

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Shed a few tears, and, reaching down into the resolve
That still fired his heart, he cried aloud to heaven,
Even as death came slithering up to him
And wrapped its stiff coils around his hands and feet.

*...It was nine o'clock in the morning
When the nails pinned him to the cross
Like a monarch butterfly in a display case.*



*His flow chart read, "Came to Help People—
Failed miserably." Beside him hung
Two Bolsheviks, affixed to their dry bones,*

*Cursing humanity. Bystanders debunked him,
Wagging their heads, hands on their hips,
Taunting him in these words: "So, you would*

*Tear down the old, raise up the new, all
In a afternoon; why don't you save yourself
By leaping free of this cross like an Olympian."*

*Likewise a few power-brokers and pundits
Stood by giving him a piece of their minds.
The chyron beneath their talking heads read:*

*"Purportedly he saved others, but, my gosh,
What a flop he's proven when really tested, helpless
To save himself. He's nothing but a demagogue*

*And a fraud. If only he'd show a little spine
And launch a missile or two at his enemies,
Then we'd sit up." Even the Bolsheviks on both sides*

*Joined in the fun, dropping a few f-bombs
On him. At noon it became eerily dark,
Staying that way until three in the afternoon*

*When a shout broke the silence, slamming
Against the surrounding hills, slicing
The air like a butcher knife through ripe melon.*

(Continued on page 7)

Report from the Provincial Delegate

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

(Continued from page 6)

*These were the words that rode the cry, Eloi, Eloi,
Lema sabachthani?—cryptic words of ages past,
Resonant as a wooden bowl with markings etched*

*Inside. To others of a later day the words
Sounded unmistakably like, “My God, my God,
Why have you forsaken me?”—recognizable to all*

*As the first line of Psalm 22, or so those standing near
Insisted. But to others it seemed like he was calling
For divine intervention. “I bet he’s summoning*

*Elijah,” one said; and another had the bright idea
Of running over, soaking a sponge in wine,
Attaching it to a stick, and pressing it to his lips.*

*“You know, Elijah just may show,” he said,
Not really believing it. Then, unexpectedly,
A long-drawn-out groan escaped him, and Jesus
Breathed his last...*

(Mark 15:25-37)



And so it was that God lifted him on high,
Putting him at the center of His Reign,
Shouting *Here He Belongs* in a voice
So musical it tamed every ear. Hearing

This tune issuing forth on a breeze, all took
Their seats while a hush swept over them,
Over all God’s holy ones—those still sojourning
On the earth, and those sunk irretrievably

In the tar pits of death; and, lo and behold,
The whole human race began to sing
A song of happy allegiance to Jesus the Lord,
Bringing joy to the heart of God the Father.



Community Elections are Coming Up in 2020

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

We recommend that the whole community review and discuss the following excerpt from the Statutes some-time toward the end of 2019.

Section XVI: Community Elections

1) Community elections shall be held in the same year and prior to the OCD Provincial Chapter. The newly elected local Council shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the community meeting or retreat in which they are elected.

2) Elections of the community President and three Councilors shall be conducted in accordance with recognized parliamentary procedures² with the following particular provisions:

a) A nominating committee of at least three professed members³ shall be appointed by the local Council. The names of the committee members shall be announced to the members no less than three months in advance of the election.

b) The nominating committee shall gather the names of qualified members who are willing to serve for each office. For the office of President there should be two or more nominees who have made their Definitive Promise [Art. 51]. For the office of the three Councilors there should be four or more nominees.⁴ Individual members may also submit names to the nominating committee. A list of the candidates shall be given to the community at least three weeks prior to the election.

c) Only professed members may serve as members of the local Council.⁴

d) All council members (President, Councilors, and Director of Formation) shall serve no more than two consecutive terms of three years in any capacity (e.g. one term as Councilor and one as President constitutes two terms). A partial term of 18 months or more shall be considered a full term for purposes of eligibility. To be elected to a third consecutive term requires a postulation from the Provincial.⁵

e) Nominations from the floor shall not be accepted.

f) Write-in votes are valid if the member is eligible to serve.

g) Only professed members are eligible to vote.

h) Voting shall be by secret ballot.

i) Members must be physically present to vote.

j) The incumbent President shall preside at the election of the President and three Councilors.

k) The vote count shall be recorded in the community minutes.

3) Election of the President

a) The Spiritual Assistant shall invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the absence of the Assistant, this shall be the duty of the incumbent President.

b) Election of the President shall be on a separate ballot from the three Councilors and shall precede the election of the Councilors.

c) If a majority⁶ is not reached by any nominee on the first ballot, the names of the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on the second ballot. If there is a tie on the second ballot, there shall be a third and final ballot. In the event of a tie on the third ballot, seniority of profession shall be the determining factor for election. If there is a tie in length of profession, then seniority by age shall determine the election.

d) Nominees for President shall be added to the Councilor ballot if not elected President.

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Community Elections are Coming Up in 2020

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

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4) Election of the local Council

- a) Each council position shall be voted on separately, using the same method as the election of the President [Sec. XVI.3].
- b) The entire list of candidates shall be on the ballot for the first council position.
- c) Candidates not elected for the first council position shall automatically be on the ballot for the second council position.
- d) Candidates not elected for the second council position shall automatically be on the ballot for the third council position.
- e) In all three council elections, in case of a tie, the same rules outlined in Sec. XVI.3c above shall apply.

5) The office of Formation Director is vacated when the newly elected Council assumes its duties.

6) The new Council shall elect the Formation Director after prayerful discussion and discernment. Councils are encouraged to spend adequate time discerning this important position.

7) If one of the new Council members is made Formation Director, the candidate with the next highest number of votes on the last councilor ballot is made a councilor.

8) It is strongly recommended that the previous President and/or Council bring the new Council up to date on community matters, council concerns, upcoming tasks, and community and council files and records. This is not considered a breach of confidentiality.

9) The procedure for appointing the Secretary and Treasurer shall be left to the discretion of the new Council [Art. 54-55]. The previous Secretary and Treasurer continue to serve until these appointments are made.

10) Study Group Council elections are governed by the provisions in Section XIII.

Footnotes:

2 e.g. Robert's Rules of Order.

3 Those who have made at least their First Promise.

4 Article 52 states that Councilors "generally are community members with Definitive Promise, [but] in particular circumstances, members with First Promise can serve."

5 Postulation is a petition for exemption from the normal policy.

6 A number greater than half the valid votes cast.

Additional notes:

Most communities in our province have their elections in March. However, the only rule is that they be held before the Friars' Chapter and in the same year. That means at a community meeting or retreat in January, February, March or April 2020.

Persons on the nominating committee should have a good understanding of what the council does so they can answer members' questions about what the job entails. Candidates must be willing to serve before being placed on the ballot. The committee will need to know which members qualify to be on the ballot. (Statutes XVI.2c-d. and the local community attendance policy)

Any campaigning is strictly out of order. Members who solicit votes for candidates should be censured by the Council.

Please ask a person's permission before writing their name in on the ballot. It would be better to submit their name to the nominating committee so the person has time to pray about it. If a person you nominated is not on the ballot, it is most likely that they were not willing or were not eligible.

***The Nominating Committee—Taken from an article in Flos Carmeli Winter 2017
Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council***

Reminder

Here are the main changes that were made with the 2016 Statutes:

- Candidates' names will be published ahead of the election, so that community members have ample time to pray and reflect on their choices.
- Presidential candidates who are not elected are automatically added to the councilor ballot.
- There will be separate ballots for each of the three councilor positions.
- Nominations from the floor are no longer accepted.

The Nominating Committee

The current Council appoints a nominating committee of at least three professed members. Definitively professed is preferable. Members of the nominating committee should demonstrate good judgment and be mature in the OCDS vocation. They should understand the role of the Council, so that they will be able to answer nominees' questions.

At least three months before the elections, the names of the members of the nominating committee are announced to the community.

The nominating committee reviews the roster of members to create a list of possible candidates for the president and the three council positions.

They determine whether members are eligible to serve.

- Not finishing a second consecutive term on the Council (serving a third consecutive term needs special permission from the Provincial.)
- Definitively professed
- First Promise members may serve on the Council if there are not enough definitively professed members able to serve. The preference would be for those who are close to making the Definitive Promise.

The nominating committee may also discuss whether a member is suitable to serve.

- Mental and physical capacity
- Sufficient flexibility of family and/or work obligations to attend Council meetings and carry out the duties of the office
- Good attendance
- Has shown responsibility in carrying out assigned community jobs
- Demonstrates harmony, charity, and prudence in the context of community life

Individual members may make nominations by submitting the person's name to the committee.

The nominating committee calls the members on the list to ask whether they are willing to serve on the Council. There needs to be at least two (2) candidates for president and four (4) for councilor.

At least three weeks before the election a list of candidates is given to the members of the community. This may be done at the meeting prior to the election, or via letter or email, or both.

At the Council's discretion, the nominating committee may be asked to prepare the materials needed for the election.

Changing Leadership—The Outgoing Council's duties *Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council*

Go over community and council files with the incoming Council.

Bring the incoming Council up to date on:

- Council projects/action items
- Community issues
- Findings of the last visitation
- Status of candidates in formation
- Finances/budget

The New Council's duties

First month:

- Elect a Formation Director
- Appoint a secretary
- Appoint a treasurer

Spiritual Assistants' terms are for three years. Reappointment requires the agreement of the new Council, the Spiritual Assistant, and Father Provincial.

Send the Central Office Administrator names, numbers, addresses and emails for all Council members, Secretary, Treasurer, and Spiritual Assistant as soon as possible

By the end of March:

If the outgoing Council has not already done so, send the provincial assessment and community roster to the Central Office Administrator.

Once settled in and before making any changes:

- Become familiar with council and community files
- Review the Constitutions and Statutes sections regarding the local Council
- Read the best practice articles regarding Councils and leadership (website)
- Become familiar with provincial policies (website)
- Review the local community policies and decide whether they are serving the intended purpose
- Review the formation program, compare with provincial guidelines and the Ratio, and determine whether any changes are needed

Closing comments: In the midst of all the work the Council does, keep firmly in mind why you are really there. Be careful not to get so caught up in the details that you lose sight of your main purpose.

*Constitutions 46. The Council, composed of the President and three Councilors and the Director of Formation, constitutes the immediate authority of the community. **The primary responsibility of the Council is the formation and Christian and Carmelite maturing of the members of the community.***

Keep close watch on formation and the spiritual needs of the members. Read and discuss the Ratio, the constitutions, the formation guidelines, and the best practice articles. Make adjustments to the formation program as needed. Choose high-quality materials for ongoing and community study.

Take care to appoint formators who are grounded in Carmelite spirituality, mature in their vocation, and have the skills to help others with their spiritual development. Sit in on formation classes to get to know the candidates and to oversee whether the sessions are meeting their needs.

Appointment of the Spiritual Assistant

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

September 2019 – Oklahoma Province OCDS

This policy supersedes all previous statements on the appointment of Spiritual Assistants.

Instructions for petitioning for the appointment of a Spiritual Assistant

Background information from the Constitutions (#43-45).

The Provincial, usually aided by the Provincial Delegate - “he is to make visitation of the communities [the OCDS provincial council is delegated by the Provincial to make the visitations]...and after consultation with the Council, appoint a Spiritual Assistant for communities”; “The Spiritual Assistant must be well-versed in Carmelite Spirituality and well-informed in the Church’s teachings concerning the role of lay people in the Church”; “the Provincial may appoint as Assistant one who is not a friar of the Order, always with the consent of the candidate’s own superior”; “the Provincial Delegate will assist in this appointment by interviewing the candidate. They will look for the same qualities as mentioned in number 44 of these norms.”

Practical Application

At the beginning of each triennium, one of the duties of the new local Council is to assess the suitability of the community’s Spiritual Assistant (SA) according to the above criteria. They discern whether to ask for re-appointment or to find a new SA.

The Council is responsible to ask the Provincial either for the re-appointment of the SA or the appointment of a new (SA). It is the responsibility of the Provincial to review and appoint these Assistants.

In the case of an **OCD friar**, the Council makes a formal petition to the friar, copying the Provincial. If the friar accepts, the Council asks the Provincial to make the appointment.

In the case of a person who is **not an OCD friar**, the Council of the community must submit a formal petition to the candidate to consider being the Spiritual Assistant to the community in question; the candidate must formally accept, citing as well the permission of their Ordinary. These then are to be forwarded to the Provincial with a formal request for the appointment of the Spiritual Assistant to the community. The appointment is only for the triennium.

Care must be taken to explain the responsibilities. (see *appendix*)

Visitors are responsible to interview the Spiritual Assistants and assess their capacity to fulfill their duties and obligations and send the recommendation or lack of recommendation to the Provincial.

Appendix

From *the Pastoral Care of the Secular Order*

Spiritual Assistants

Art. 14

1. The spiritual assistant is the person designated by the competent major superior to carry out this service for a specific community of the OCDS.
2. In order to be a witness of Discalced Carmelite spirituality and of the fraternal affection of the religious towards the secular Discalced Carmelites, and to be a bond of communion between his Order and the OCDS, the spiritual assistant should preferably be a Discalced Carmelite Friar.

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Appointment of the Spiritual Assistant

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

(Continued from page 12)

Art. 15

1. The principal task of the assistant is to foster a deeper insight into Discalced Carmelite spirituality and to co-operate in the initial and continuing formation of the Secular Discalced Carmelites. *[Side note: The primary responsibility for formation lies with the local Council. While the SA offers the Council support, the community must not rely solely on him for their ongoing formation and maturing in the OCDS vocation.]*
2. In the Council of the community and at the time of community elections the assistant will be respectful of the responsibilities and role of the Secular Discalced Carmelites, giving them priority with regard to the guidance, co-ordination, and animation of the community.
3. The assistant, when invited by the Council, participates actively in the discussions and decisions taken by the Council or by the Chapter. *[Side note: The SA offers support and information, but does not have a vote in Council decisions.]*
4. The assistant is specifically responsible for the animation of liturgical celebrations and spiritual reflections during the meetings of the Council or of the community.

Art. 16

1. The assistant is appointed by the competent major Superior, after consultation with the Council of the community concerned.
2. The appointment of the assistant is made in writing and for a specified time.
3. When it is not possible to give the community a spiritual assistant who is a member of the Order, the competent major Superior can entrust the service of spiritual assistance to:
 - religious of other Carmelite institutes;
 - clergy who are Secular Discalced Carmelites, specially prepared for such service;
 - other diocesan clerics or non-Discalced Carmelite religious, specially prepared for such service.

Art. 17

The local assistant fosters communion within the community and between the community and the Province. In harmony with the Provincial or Provincial Delegate, the assistant sees to it that between the religious and the secular communities a real life-giving union with each other exists. He fosters the active presence of the community in the Church and in society.

Art. 18

1. The local assistant has the very important responsibility to support the Council of the community, especially the director of formation, in the formation of the candidates. The council may invite the local assistant to express his assessment of each of the candidates at different stages of formation.

[Side note: This paragraph applies to OCD friars and SAs who are well-grounded in their understanding of the Secular Carmelite vocation. The ultimate decision lies with the Council. The SA does not vote and may not override the Council's decision.]

2. The Council may ask the assistant to discuss with brothers or sisters who have difficulties, who want to retire from the community, or who act in serious opposition to the Constitutions.

The online document is the only one to be considered official.

Using the OCDS Designation

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

August 2019 – Oklahoma Province OCDS.

This statement supersedes all previous statements on using “OCDS” after a member’s name.

Using the OCDS designation – a clarification

OCDS may be added after a member’s name when the member has made First Promise. It is not used before making the Promise. If a person discontinues initial formation or leaves the Order, the OCDS designation is dropped.

In print or online

To the general public, using “OCDS” after a member’s name makes the person the face of the Order. For this reason, we request that OCDS not be used when expressing personal opinions in public forums.

Books and articles on non-Carmelite themes, for example promoting private revelations, should not be signed OCDS.

Side note: Books teaching Christian themes should be sent to the *ensor librorum* at the local diocesan chancery office for the *Nihil Obstat* and the Bishop’s *Imprimatur*.

Books and articles for publication outside of Carmelite venues may be signed OCDS, if the member first has the local Council or Spiritual Assistant review them for tone and accuracy. It is important that the document is theologically sound and correctly reflects Carmelite attitudes and teachings.

Members who do not want to wait for approval are free to publish under their own name without the “OCDS” designation.

This is not to interfere with free expression, but to protect the Order from misunderstanding.

Public speaking

Notices for events sponsored by an OCDS community obviously would state that the community is Discalced Carmelite Secular, and OCDS speakers’ names may be printed with OCDS after them.

Some Carmelite Seculars have personal apostolates teaching Carmelite topics. Advertisements would not normally list the person as OCDS. However, it would be perfectly fine for the person to talk about his experience in Carmel and for attendees to know that he is a Carmelite Secular.

Persons not affiliated with an OCDS community may not use “OCDS” as a selling point for speaking engagements, book sales, or other activities.

Personal life

Being a Discalced Carmelite Secular is not a secret. We are free to discuss Carmelite spirituality and the vocation to Carmel with family and friends, co-workers and acquaintances – anyone – as God inspires us and good judgment directs.

The online document is the only one to be considered official.

Provincial Council—Q & A—changing provinces, ceremonial scapulars, fast days, liturgist duties, funeral wishes, nominations for council elections
Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

Q: One of our members moved to [X] province. The nearest community is about four hours away. Would it be possible for him to stay with us as an isolate member?

A: We consulted with Fr Stephen, our Provincial. The Seculars are under the jurisdiction of the friars of the province in which they live. The norm is for the member to transfer to the new province and for the Provincial of that province to assign him to a community. An exception would need the permission of both Provincials but is not likely to be given.

Q: We have a member who is moving out of the country. He is close to making the First Promise. The problem is he can't find a community where he is going. Is there any way he can continue as an Isolate?

A: Our statutes do not allow isolate status before First Promise. The only way would be if the Provincial in the country where the person lives gives special permission. The person would be under his jurisdiction and would need to be connected with a local community.

On the other hand – the person's original community could continue to do formation long distance informally/unofficially as an outreach apostolate. The person would not be able to make the Promise, but would have guidance and support as he learns the spirituality.

The Council can readmit if the person moves back into the area.

Q: I have a question to ask of you in regard to the ceremonial scapular. According to the statutes section VI: External Signs of Membership, members need the Council's approval to wear the scapular outside of a meeting. What if it is short notice and the Council doesn't have time to meet for a vote? For instance, a local priest is having a special mass in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and some members would like to wear their ceremonial scapular. Or for a member's funeral? If there isn't time for the local council to decide, would the answer automatically have to be no? Or can that motion be presented to the local Council for approval for future consideration?

A: Your last question gives the best answer. Yes, your Council can set policies so you do not have to vote every time. You could state that several members attending Mass together on a Carmelite feast day can wear their scapulars without special permission; that everyone is expected to wear their scapulars to a wake or funeral of someone in the community; and other situations that the Council believes are always appropriate. Policies need to be in writing and added to the Council's documents. Councils can change policies if they are not working as expected.

Q: When can a member use the OCDS letters after their name?

A: This is such an important question that the Provincial Council created a policy stating when it is appropriate and when it is not. See Page 14 for a copy. The document is also on the provincial website <http://www.thereseocds.org/policy/provincial-policy/>.

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Provincial Council—Q & A—changing provinces, ceremonial scapulars, fast days, liturgist duties, funeral wishes, nominations for council elections
Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

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Q: This question was brought up in one of our community break-out groups for Definitives.

In Section V: Feast Days and Fasting – there are several Feast Days and a Fast Day precedes them. In our discussion someone mentioned that these days are not only for fasting but also for abstaining from meat. Is this understanding correct?

A: We can see how abstinence might be assumed, given that the Church has us do both on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But that is not what was intended in the statutes.

“In addition to the days of fasting and of abstinence proper to the Church” ... “our members ... shall *fast on the vigils* of the following feast days”... Fast only, not fast and abstain.

Q: What are the responsibilities of the office of Liturgist? I have located a very old Flos Carmeli [Winter 2005] which gave a definition. Liturgist: “Advises the community of the Cantors and pages number for Vespers for the upcoming meeting. If there is a community Mass, the Liturgist would assign Lectors for the Readings and Communion Antiphon.” We are considering expanding this office to include those members who would like to assist in the Mass as altar servers, Eucharist ministers, and music ministry. What do you think? Do you know if there has been an updated and or revision to this office, and if so what are they?

A: The short answer is the role of liturgist is not defined. It’s whatever the Council decides would best serve the community’s needs. The Council can change the job’s responsibilities if they see the need. Here’s an excerpt from a Summer 2017 Q&A article on the topic.

That description in the Flos Carmeli was an example of what the Dallas community did in 2005. It wasn’t intended to be binding on other communities... The only really defined offices (other than the Council members) are the Secretary and the Treasurer (OCDS Constitutions 55 and 56).

The local Council may appoint members to roles of service to the community as needed. Small communities aren’t going to need a different person for every job; and a really big community might need to assign teams for some of their jobs.

It is important that the Council defines community jobs, so that there are not conflicting expectations. It’s also important that Councils periodically look at what is working and what needs changing. ...

... for the liturgy coordinator – decide what you need the person to do and be clear about the job description. Some communities have one person take care of the LOTH, and a different person for the Mass. Some even have a person just to choose the hymns and lead the singing. And other communities have one person do all these roles. Whatever works for you is fine.

Past issues of the Flos Carmeli are on the provincial website.
<http://www.thereocds.org/flos-carmeli-newsletter/>

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Provincial Council—Q & A—changing provinces, ceremonial scapulars, fast days, liturgist duties, funeral wishes, nominations for council elections
Compiled by Claire Bloodgood, OCDS, on behalf of the Provincial Council

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Q: We're thinking about making a form for the members of the community to indicate what they want the community to do at the time of their passing. The community would keep a copy and the member would include their copy with their will or other papers. That way there should be some dialogue between the family and the community.

Also, the family would be given the number of the President and one other on that form, but in the case of members that are no longer around, what other number can be given?

A: Our recommendation is to review and discuss Statutes Section VII with your community.

We don't recommend having members' wishes kept in their files. That's between the member and their family. The community's role is to offer help and to respect whatever the family would like them to do. (VII 1.b)

Members should talk with their family about how they want the community involved in their funeral services. (VII 4) There's no harm in also having something in writing, but often no one sorts through the papers until after the funeral.

We hear what you are saying about phone numbers. Some communities have a contact email address that is passed from president to president as different members fill the office. It works well for bulletin notices, where you might not want to give personal information. Of course it only works if someone checks it regularly!

It's a good idea to have emergency contact information for each member, updated yearly. If a member becomes too infirm to communicate, the infirmarian could reach out to the family. That way the family would know who to contact when the member passes away.

Q: We're selecting our nominating committee and this question came up. In Section XVI: Community Elections #2 b) it states "Individual members may also submit names to the nominating committee."

I take this to mean that individual members of community may submit names, but that the nominating committee may discern that person would not be suitable to be on the ballot – for whatever reason. Then the nominating committee would not have to include that person on the ballot.

Would this be correct?

A: In the case of a member submitting a name to the nominating committee, the committee determines if the person is *eligible*. It would need to be a pretty negative reason not to accept an eligible nominee, such as the person rarely follows through on responsibilities or consistently can't get along with others. You wouldn't want to just say the person is too busy or someone else would be better. An exception would be if there are enough Definitives, you wouldn't include First Promise members on the ballot.

**PROPER CALENDAR OF THE ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITE
FRIARS OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

Promulgated in Rome July 16, 2019

JANUARY

- 4 – *Saint Kuriakose Elias of the Holy Family Chavara, priest*
- 8 – *Saint Peter Thomas, bishop*
- 9 – *Saint Andrew Corsini, bishop*
- 27 – *Saint Henry de Osso y Cervello, priest*

FEBRUARY

- 4 – *Blessed Marie-Eugene of the Infant Jesus Grialou, priest*
- 24 – *Blessed Josepha Naval Girbés, virgin*

MARCH

- 18 – fast day for OCDS
- 19 – St Joseph, Patron of our Order

APRIL

- 17 – *Blessed Baptist Spagnoli, priest*
- 18 – *Blessed Mary of the Incarnation (Barba Acarie), religious*
- 23 – *Blessed Teresa Maria of the Cross Manetti, virgin*

MAY

- 4 – *Blesseds Angelus Maria Prat Hostench and Lucas of St Joseph Pujol, priests and martyrs, and companions, martyrs*
- 16 – *Saint Simon Stock, priest*
- 22 – *Saint Joachina de Vedruna, religious*
- 25 – *Saint Mary Magdalen of the Incarnate Word de' Pazzi, virgin* – **Memorial**

JUNE

- 7 – *Blessed Anne of St Bartholomew, virgin*
- 12 – *Blessed Alphonsus Mary of the Holy Spirit Mazurek, priest and martyr, and companions, martyrs*

JULY

- 12 – *Saints Louis Martin and Marie Azelia (Zelie) Guerin, spouses*
- 13 – *Saint Teresa of Jesus (of the Andes) Fernandez Solar, virgin* – **Memorial**
- 15 – fast day for OCDS
- 16 – **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL, PATRONESS OF CARMEL** – **Solemnity**
- 17 – *Blessed Teresa of Saint Augustine and companions, virgins and martyrs*
- 19 – fast day for OCDS
- 20 – **SAINT ELIJAH, PROPHET AND PATRON OF CARMEL** – **Feast**
- 23 – *Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Grace* – **Memorial**
- 24 – *Blessed Maria of St Francis Borgia Martinez Garcia, Maria Sagrario of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Morages Cantanero, and companions, virgins and martyrs*
- 27 – *Blessed Titus Brandsma, priest and martyr*
- 28 – *Blessed John Soreth, priest*

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**PROPER CALENDAR OF THE ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITE
FRIARS OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**
Promulgated in Rome July 16, 2019

(Continued from page 18)

AUGUST

- 7 – Saint Albert of Trapani, priest – **Memorial**
- 9 – Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin and martyr – **Memorial**
- 18 – *Blesseds Leonard (Jean-Baptiste Duverneuil), Michael Aloysius (Michel-Louis Brunard), and Hubert of Saint Claude (James Gagnot), priests, and companions, martyrs*
- 25 – *Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified, virgin*
- 26 – *Transverberation of our Holy Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus*

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – Saint Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Redi, virgin – **Memorial**
- 11 – *Blessed Maria of Jesus Lopez Rivas, virgin*
- 17 – SAINT ALBERT OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP AND LAWGIVER OF CARMEL – **Feast**
- 30 – fast day for OCDS

OCTOBER

- 1 – SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH – **Feast**
In the Oklahoma Province – Solemnity
- 14 – fast day for OCDS
- 15 – **HOLY MOTHER SAINT TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH – Solemnity**
- 30 – *Blessed Mary Teresa of Saint Joseph Tauscher, virgin*

NOVEMBER

- 6 – *Saint Nuno of the Blessed Virgin Mary Álvares Pereira, religious*
- 7 – *Blessed Francis of Jesus Mary Joseph Palau y Quer, priest*
- 8 – *Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity Catez, virgin*
- 13 – fast day for OCDS
- 14 – ALL CARMELITE SAINTS – **Feast**
- 15 – All Carmelite Souls – **Commemoration**
- 19 – Saint Raphael of Saint Joseph Kalinowski, priest – **Memorial**
- 29 – *Blesseds Denis of the Nativity Berthelot, priest, and Redemptus of the Cross, religious, martyrs*

DECEMBER

- 11 – *Saint Maria Maravillas of Jesus, virgin*
- 13 – fast day for OCDS
- 14 – **OUR HOLY FATHER SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH – Solemnity**



2019 General Definitory Letter



GENERAL DEFINITORY OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES
Corso d'Italia, 38
00198 Rome – Italy
SEXENNIIUM 2015-2021 – LETTER No 18
Rome, 11th of September, 2019

Dear brothers and sisters of the Teresian Carmel:

Here we are, once again, sending all of you our cordial greeting and informing you of the main topics covered and the decisions taken at the Definitory Meeting which took place in Rome from the 2nd to the 10th of September, with Fr General and the seven Definitors participating.

A central topic of our discussion these days has been the drafting of the Declaration on our Charism. In the context of the renewal programme promoted by the 2015 General Chapter, the Extraordinary Definitory held last February in Goa, India, agreed that the General Chapter of 2021 should adopt this Declaration, which will attempt to express in a concise manner and with understandable language the essential elements of the charism of our Order, taking into account the current context of society and the Church, as well as the pluralistic presence of the Order in the different regions of the world. The purpose of the Declaration is to help us all in the process of continuous renewal, which we need to keep in motion in order to respond to the mission entrusted to us by God and the Church, arising from the identity given to us in our charism.

The General Definitory has written a first draft of the Charismatic Declaration, which was revised during these days. This text will be sent to all circumscriptions so that it can be analyzed and the next provincial chapters provide their assessments and suggestions. In addition, in the coming weeks it will be subject to the consideration of a few young friars from the circumscriptions of the Order (usually between the ages of 30 and 45) on different continents. With all the contributions received, the General Definitory will review the text and present it to the Extraordinary Definitory in September 2020, which will carry out a further revision of the draft in preparation for the General Chapter.

With regard to the Norms, the work of analysis and evaluation of the suggestions provided by the provinces during the stage of rereading the Constitutions continues. These were already evaluated at the Goa Extraordinary Definitory, and now, with the help of canonical experts, the material is being prepared with the proposed modifications and the arguments that support them, so that the General Chapter can take appropriate decisions.

Turning to general visitations, we received extensive information about those that have taken place in recent weeks. Thus, from the 3rd to the 15th of July, P. Daniel Chowning made the pastoral visitation of the province of Malta. The presence of the Order on this Mediterranean island dates back to 1626, when construction began in Cospicua of what would become the first church dedicated to St Teresa of Jesus. Throughout history, the province stands out for a strong missionary spirit. It is currently made up of 20 religious, with an average age of 60 years, and has 4 houses on the island of Malta: the novitiate house, a parish, a spirituality centre and a sanctuary in honour of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. The province also serves a parish in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, where there is currently only one religious, a situation that cannot continue.

In the communities, there is deep concern for the pastoral care of the faithful. Effort is made to take care of the life of prayer and fraternity, two areas in which it is necessary to continue improving. Despite the vocational decline in the Western world, there are certain signs of hope with the presence of some aspirants, something which requires good discernment and accompaniment. Fr Daniel encouraged the friars to make Carmelite spirituality more and better known. He also recalled the desirability of good ongoing formation, as well as organizing retreats and days of recollection for the friars of the province. Due to the small number of friars, advancing age, and the scarcity of vocations, the province has applied to become a semi-province, a petition that has been accepted by the Definitory and which will be effective from the next provincial Chapter of the circumscription.

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For his part, from the 1st to the 18th of August, Father Daniel Ehigie carried out a pastoral visitation of the Provincial Delegation of Malawi, which is part of the Province of Navarre. The Delegation currently has 12 friars from Malawi, 2 from Navarre, 2 from the General Delegation of the Congo, and 2 friars who are studying in Rome and Avila, as well as a bishop. The average age is 43 years. On the other hand, 25 young people are in initial formation. In Malawi there is a total of 5 communities. The house for philosophy students is in Balaka and the novitiate in Kapiri. The communities serve two parishes, a school, a spirituality centre and a house of prayer. The friars are appreciated by the local Church. In recent times, collaboration with other circumscriptions has grown, especially in the field of formation, with initiatives such as the inter-provincial novitiate or sending students to other countries. The high number of those abandoning their vocation in an invitation to strengthen formation communities and to devote more energy to discernment and to accompany candidates. Attention must also be paid to the economic situation in order to move towards self-financing.

Fr Mariano Agruda III took part in the annual meeting of the Conference of Major Superiors of East Asia and Oceania from the 2nd to the 5th of July in Bangkok. At the same time, the three-yearly meeting of professed students from East Asia and Oceania took place. A total of 35 delegates from 10 different nationalities took part in this meeting.

Subsequently, P. Mariano visited the province of Korea from the 20th of July to the 3rd of August. Christianity in Korea began in the 17th century thanks to the work of the laity; it has always had a remarkable social involvement and also has a strong martyrdom tradition. Catholics now make up 11% of the population.

The Order's presence in Korea began in 1974 through the collaboration of the provinces of Avignon-Aquitaine and Venice. The Province of Korea was established in 2009. It currently consists of 48 solemnly professed friars, 2 simply professed, 4 novices and 1 postulant, with an average age of 52 years. Twenty percent of the friars are non-clerical brothers. The province has 6 houses in Korea, 1 in the United States, 1 in mainland China and 1 inter-provincial house in Taiwan. There are currently 3 candidates from China in initial formation: 1 simply professed, 1 novice, and 1 postulant. There are 8 convents of Discalced Carmelite nuns in Korea. Membership in the Secular Carmel is quite numerous and consistent, with some 3,600 members. The characteristic areas in which the friars dedicate their work are the Secular Order communities, the desert house in Seongju, the Carmelite Centre in Seoul, publications and pastoral work in spirituality. A group of friars is working on the interesting "China Mission" project, which we want to continue for the good of the Order.

Among the friars of Korea, the contemplative dimension of Carmelite life is particularly valued. The general Visitor pointed out ways to continue improvement in the community life with a fraternal spirit in the exercise of authority and relationships between friars. It is necessary to grow in a sense of belonging to the province and in the programming and realization of common projects. Especially important is the need to devote resources to training formators. Relations with the neighbouring circumscriptions of East Asia and Oceania should also be intensified.

Fr Johannes Gorantla presented the report on his visit to the Karnataka-Goa province which he carried out between the months of April and August, at different stages, because of the dimensions of the province and its extensive geographical presence. The province has 202 solemnly professed friars, 69 simply professed and 9 novices. The average age of those solemnly professed is around 45 years. The province has 26 houses in India, 8 in the Vicariate of Tanzania, 2 in South Africa, 8 in Canada and 3 in Italy. The communities serve 9 spirituality centres, 10 schools and 35 parishes. There are 9 monasteries of Discalced Carmelites nuns under the jurisdiction of the province in India and 1 in Tanzania. There are 22 secular Order communities with 442 members.

The Karnataka-Goa province, established in 1981, is a young province, with a lot of capacity and potential. In the last 30 years it has experienced great numerical growth, as well as a remarkable geographical expansion. The visitor noted

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2019 General Definitory Letter

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that there is good fraternal atmosphere in the Province. There is an intense apostolic activity throughout the Province and in particular, the apostolate specific to the Order. Province has various renowned centres of Spirituality that attract religious from all over India. With their active dedication, the friars reach a very large number of people, thanks also to their publications and the use of the media. There is also a remarkable missionary spirit in the province. Ongoing formation is well taken care of. It is necessary to strengthen the fraternal life in some of the existing communities. Another aspect to attend to is initial formation, devoting enough time to the initial stages. The Definitory believes that it would be desirable to create some provincial delegations in the province, for example, for the communities of Canada, and perhaps also for some area of India, in order to facilitate the administration.

Fr Javier Mena submitted the reports sent in by the circumscriptions of Mexico and Ecuador concerning the application of the indications given them in their past pastoral visitation, as requested of all circumscriptions one year after the visitation. In this respect, we have also discussed some issues related to the follow-up after the general visitation in some other provinces (Malabar, Oklahoma, etc.).

Fr Javier also reported on the important progress that has been made in the dialogue between the Latin American circumscriptions with regard to interprovincial formation. Concrete agreements are being reached in the three CICALAs. Thus, each of them will have a novitiate and an interprovincial theological college.

As usual, the Bursar General informed the Definitory about the economic situation of the General House and some of the entities under the general government. We especially appreciate the donations received from different sources, which also allow us to respond to requests that arrive from different parts of the Order. For his part, the Procurator General gave a report on recent dealings with the Apostolic See on behalf of the Order, and together with him we analysed the specific situation of some friars from different circumscriptions that requires particular attention.

Fr. Jérôme Paluku, Secretary for Missionary Cooperation, gave a report on the new rules of the Italian Episcopal Conference for the submission of applications for financial aid for the Third World. From now on, all projects submitted must always be approved by the General of the Order or the respective religious congregation. On the other hand, a limited number of projects have been established for each Order or Congregation. For this reason, our secretariat remains committed to coordinating the projects and helping in the preparation and presentation of the corresponding dossiers.

Other topics submitted to the attention of the General Definitory are as follows:

- We received information from Father Attilio Ghisleri, Delegate in Israel, on some aspects of the life and pastoral work of the friars of the Delegation, as well as the current state of numerous issues relating to our heritage in Israel (maintenance, works, projects, administrative management, etc.).
- We accepted the request of Karnataka-Goa Province to start a new foundation in the Archdiocese of Nagpur (Maharashtra, India).
- We accepted the request of the Province of Manjummel to start a foundation in Ipswich, in the diocese of East Anglia (England).
- We accepted the request of the Province of Central Italy (friars and Secular Carmel) to open the Cause for beatification of Gino Bartali (1914-2000), a member of the Secular Carmelites. He is well known in Italy for his great triumphs as a cyclist and his deep faith and great generosity are being discovered more and more.

Within a few months, the circumscriptions of the Order will celebrate their triennial Chapters which represent an excellent opportunity for renewal and a stimulus for the lives of the friars. As our laws remind us, Chapters should be carefully prepared, giving great importance to spiritual preparation (Norms 207). On this occasion, what comes to the

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2019 General Definitory Letter

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forefront is reflection upon the Charismatic Declaration that the Order has prepared. By means of the Chapters, all circumscriptions are called to offer their cooperation so that the text can become an element of renewal in the immediate future. In the coming days the General will send a letter to all circumscriptions with some indications for the proper preparation of the Chapters.

Following standard practice, a few months after the Provincial Chapters the Extraordinary Definitory will meet. To be precise, next year's meeting will take place from August 30th to September 6th 2020, in Mexico City (Casa Lago, headquarters of the Conference of the Mexican Episcopate). There we will be welcomed by our friars of the Province of Mexico, to whom our gratitude continues to go out for their availability and dedication to the good running of the meeting.

As for the next General Chapter, we can already announce that it will be held from the 1st to the 22nd of May 2021, in the Ad Gentes Centre, run by the Congregation of the Divine Word, which is located in the town of Nemi, about 35 kilometres south of Rome (Italy).

We remind everyone that information on these and other topics of interest related to the Government and the General House, as well as other important aspects of the life of the Order, can be followed on the website of the General Curia (www.carmelitaniscalzi.com) and on social media. It is managed by Fr. Emilio Martínez, Secretary for Information who, from this month on, will depend on the collaboration of Mr. Lorenzo Barone (a member of the Secular Order of Central Italy) as a webmaster and assistant. We fraternally thank Fr Johny Paulose, until a few weeks ago a member of the General House community, for his effective service as a webmaster during these last years and wish him a good return to his province of South Kerala.

As our meeting draws to a close, we entrust the whole Order, friars, nuns, and lay people to the intercession of St Teresa of Jesus, whose feast we will celebrate in a few weeks' time. May she accompany us and help us in the desire to live in our time the charism that she received and transmitted.

Fraternally,

Fr Saverio Cannistrà, General

Fr Agustí Borrell

Fr Łukasz Kansy

Fr Johannes Gorantla

Fr Daniel Chowning

Fr Francisco Javier Mena

Fr Mariano Agruda III

Fr Daniel Ehigie

Journey of faith into the order of Discalced Carmelite Seculars

By Joanna Puddister King

JACKSON – On July 27, as the morning light shown through the stained-glass windows depicting Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Therese at the Carmelite Monastery chapel in South Jackson, four ladies were celebrated at a special Mass to further their commitment to the Discalced Carmelite Seculars.

Father Jorge Cabrera, OCD of the Mount Carmel Center in Dallas, Texas; Father Kevin Slattery and Deacon John McGregor were on hand to celebrate Mass and welcome Elizabeth Jones, making her rite of admission, as well as Elena Buno, Maria Asuncion Cannon and Rizalina Caskey, making their public petition of First Promise.

Not to be confused with the Carmelite nuns, the Discalced Carmelite Seculars come from all walks of life, from every level of education and from every type of work. Seculars can be lay Catholic women and men over 18 years of age or ordained diocesan priests or deacons. There are over 45,000 Discalced Carmelite Seculars worldwide and more than 6,000 in the US. Each make a commitment to seek the face of God in prayer for the good of the Church and the needs of the world.

Elizabeth Jones of St. Richard's in Jackson is one seeking that commitment, as she received the secular order's signature brown scapular with her rite of admission to the formation. When she was younger, a movie about Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who devoted her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world, drew Jones in to wanting to explore the life of a religious. As she got a little older, Jones realized that she wanted to have a family and found that the Carmelite Seculars would allow her the "perfect balance of being able to still continue to pray and still have a family."

As a graduate student at Jackson State University studying public health with a concentration in epidemiology, Jones aspires to continue her studies and growth in prayer to the formation of the rite of First Promise in a few years.

At the celebratory Mass, Maria Asuncion Cannon, Elena Buno and Rizalina Caskey of St. Jude's in Pearl, all took the next step in the order by accepting their rite of First Promise, which requires a minimum of two years of study and growth in prayer, the apostolate and community life.

Buno's interest began in the order after she met the Carmelite nuns and started volunteering at the Carmelite gift shop. What ultimately led her to the secular order were "the nuns . . . and the desire to deepen [her] relationship with Mary and Jesus Christ and to deepen my prayer and spiritual life."

Families also play a large part in shaping the faith formation of the secular order's members. Caskey's family reared her in the Catholic church and she always felt "inclined to the religious life" when she was a little girl. "That did not happen because I got married, but now I'm widowed," said Caskey.

She came to Jackson from Phoenix, Arizona and did not know about the Carmelite nuns until she "ran into the nuns at a store" and asked them about the order. Fascinated by her encounter, Caskey got involved with the Carmelite Seculars and began to meet with them every month. She feels "so blessed" that she pursued more knowledge and is thankful for the close-knit community. Caskey plans to take the next step, which is the rite of Definitive Promise after at least three more years of continued growth and prayer.

It is no surprise that the Carmelite nuns play such a huge part in inspiring others into a relationship with Christ. Juanita Butler, a member of the seculars and Holy Ghost, Jackson, was introduced to the monastery when she was a little girl.

"My Mom would come [to the Monastery] for us to hear the nuns sing. They were all behind the wall. We didn't see them, but we heard them. They sounded like angels," Butler reminisced.

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Journey of faith into the order of Discalced Carmelite Seculars

By Joanna Puddister King

(Continued from page 24)

As a child, “I said ‘Momma, one day I’m going behind that wall,’” Butler asserted. Her mother was in disbelief at the certainty of her young daughter saying, “Don’t you know you cannot go behind the wall unless you are a Carmelite nun?” To that Butler responded, “Why not? I can do it.” She laughed a little and said, “here I am today a secular.”

Butler and the Holy Ghost Jackson choir uplifted all in attendance with their joyous hymns accompanied by drums and piano.

Asuncion Cannon summed up the occasion offering that “the Holy Spirit” guided them all to the order and to be followers of Christ.

The secular order of Carmel meets monthly at St. Richard, Jackson and welcomes all to join them in prayer and study. For more information call Dorothy Ashley, OCDS at 601-259-0885.

(Tereza Ma also contributed to this story.)

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The Carmelite Nuns join the community for a photo

Journey of faith into the order of Discalced Carmelite Seculars

By Joanna Puddister King

Father Jorge Cabrera, OCD, together with the Formation Director, Anita Derouen, preparing to clothe Elizabeth Jones in the large ceremonial scapular, with the altar server on the right.



Elizabeth Jones has received her scapular; Father Jorge Cabrera, OCD is on the left.



From left to right: Rizalina Caskey, Mary Asuncion Cannon, and Elena Buno



Father Jorge Cabrera, OCD congratulating from left to right:

Rizalina Caskey, Mary Asuncion Cannon, and Elena Buno

On far left is Formation Director, Anita DeRouen; her back is to the camera ... but, I know she is smiling!



News from around the Province —2021 Congress Update

Submitted by *Laura Durant, 2021 Congress Coordinator*



State of the Heart of the 2021 Congress

THEME: *Surrender to Him and Be Free to Love*

Fall 2019



Teams Still Needing Leads

2021 Congress planning has begun, but we are still in need of team leads! Please prayerfully consider the following teams still available to lead. More detailed information can be found on the provincial website: <http://www.thereocds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2021-Congress-Teams-and-Responsibilities-Full-Version.pdf>

Liturgy Team A: Plans and coordinates the Liturgical schedule for the Congress. The team responsibilities include, but are not limited to: coordinating and preparing proper LOH, Liturgy and music for the schedule; identifying and coordinating presiders, cantors, lectors, sacristans, mass servers, musicians and music leaders for mass and LOH; obtaining music license and all copyright permissions needed for program.

Liturgy Team B (Must be in Houston area): Team responsibilities include but are not limited to: managing all aspects of the clergy vestment/sacred vessels and working sacristy; coordinate with Liturgy Team A and Adoration Team to define rooms set-up and configuration. See above link for full list of responsibilities.

Speakers Team B: Coordinating all details for the breakout sessions. This will include identifying and coordinating with speakers, panelists, facilitators, MCs and presentations, as well as preparing scripts for the MCs, collecting all speaker information for program and website, and working with Venue Team on room configuration. See above link for full list of responsibilities.

Fundraising Team: Looking for a small group of individuals that can help track fundraising amounts for the Congress and coordinate and assist with fundraising efforts.

Please contact Laura Durant, Congress Coordinator, with any questions: ocdscongresscoordinator2021@gmail.com.

Planning: Planning Team



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Meet the 2021 Congress planning team thus far! There are still teams available to lead and many ways your community can serve. Please reach out to Laura Durant for ways your community can participate.



Congress Prayer

2
Jesus, we entrust this Congress and all that will come – the joys, the difficulties, the obstacles and the blessings – to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May she guide our every step, every word, and every action...



Secular Carmelites of
the Province of St.
Therese – Oklahoma

News from around the Province —2021 Congress Update

Submitted by *Laura Durant, 2021 Congress Coordinator*

Surrender to Him & Be Free to Love

Fall 2019



2021 OCDS Congress: September 9-12, 2021

Omni Houston Hotel
4 Riverway, Houston, TX 77056
www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston

2021 Congress Planning Team

I want to thank the following communities and individuals for generously giving of their time and talents to lead and assist with the following teams:

The Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph (Houston #1)
~ Host Community; Marketing Team Lead; Venue Coordination Team Lead

San Juan de la Cruz (Houston #2) ~ Hospitality Team

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (Houston #3) ~ Vendor Team Lead; Venue Search Team

Most Holy Trinity (Houston #4) ~ Registration Packet/Welcome Bag Team

Kathy Rasmussen (Georgetown) ~ Financial Accountability Lead

The Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus (Oklahoma City) ~ Adoration Room Lead

The Triumph of the Cross (Georgetown) ~ Program Lead

St. Therese of the Little Flower (Lawrenceville, GA) ~ Prayer Team Lead

St. Joseph (St. Louis, MO) ~ Registration Lead

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Austin) ~ Speakers (Team A) Lead

Michelle Estep (Austin) ~ Website Lead

St. Joseph and St. Therese of Lisieux (Jackson, MS) ~ Liturgy (Team A) Assistant

Other Ways to Participate:

Sponsor a Friar

Donate items to the Welcome Bags, Raffle & OCDS Vendor Room Table

Hold a community fundraiser

Questions, comments, or recommendations? Contact:

Laura Durant, 2021 Congress Coordinator
512-699-6921

OCDSCongressCoordinator2021@gmail.com



Congress Prayer

Jesus, we surrender ourselves into Your Heart, so Your Love may shine through us and spread throughout all the world.

We give ourselves to You, abandoning ourselves into Your Loving embrace so that under the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Holy Spirit fills us with the inspiration, dedication, devotion and grace needed to work together with Your Love in our hearts.

We entrust this Congress and all that will come – the joys, the difficulties, the obstacles and the blessings – to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May she guide our every step, every word, and every action, so this Congress is blessed by her example of her perfect humility and surrender and all who prepare and attend this Congress are under her mantle of loving protection.

Jesus, give us the courage to surrender ourselves wholeheartedly to You, fearlessly answering Your call, holding tight to Your cross and embracing ours knowing it will lead us to union with You, which is our heart's deepest desire.

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News from around the Province —News from Little Rock, Arkansas

Submitted by Sharon Balmaz , OCDS

Our Little Rock Community of Blessed Anne of St. Bartholomew celebrated the Clothing of Lucinda Akel, Jo Hennelly, and Betty Peden, the First Promise of Elizabeth Pierre, Jan Swink, and Ken Swink and the Definitive Promise of Carolyn Barnett during Mass held at Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus Monastery on August 10, 2019. Father Gregory Ross, OCD, presided and Father Jerome Early, OCD concelebrated the Mass. Formation Director Sharon Balmaz officially presented the candidates.

On September 14, 2019, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Community celebrated the First Promise of Tami Ashcraft during Mass at Carmel of St. Teresa of Jesus Monastery with Father Gregory Ross, OCD presiding.



*Front: Lucinda Akel, Betty Peden.
Back: Ken and Jan Swink,
Father Gregory Ross, OCD, Carolyn Barnett,
Elizabeth Pierre, Jo Hennelly.*



Father Gregory Ross, OCD and Tami Ashcraft

News from around the Province — News from Mobile, Alabama

Submitted by Karina Schubert, OCDS

The Archdiocese of Mobile held its biennial “One Faith One Family” conference on August 2-3, 2019 with the theme of “The Family that Plays Together Prays Together,” and the lead speakers were Dr. Greg and Lisa Popchak. Several of our OCDS community members organized a table with information about Carmelites. Hundreds of people attended the conference, and the table was very successful!

Carmelite Table at “One Faith One Family” Conference



Pictured: Sr. Regina, Sr. Caroline; Kathy Falls; Collette Bookman, Marie Langan.

News from around the Province —News from New Iberia, Louisiana

Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

The Community of Mary Beloved of the Trinity held their annual retreat September 13-15, 2019 at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, LA. Fr. Bonaventure Sauer was the retreat master presenting on “The Poetry of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.”



News from around the Province —News from Georgetown, Texas

Submitted by Marianne Gonzales , OCDS

The Triumph of the Cross Community of Georgetown, Texas welcomed Fr. Jerome Earley as retreat master from October 4-6, 2019, at the Cedarbrake Renewal Center in Belton.

Father spoke on *Why is Carmel Considered Christo-Centric?*

Father said the praying Christ is our model and if one wants to know about prayer then we must study and know the life of Jesus Christ. Christ is leading us to union with God and we are to be the way for others through prayer. Father said we are able to know Christ more fully by making Him the center of our lives.

We thank Father Jerome for spending the weekend with us and look forward to his next visit to our community.



News from around the Province —News from Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

Father Rafal Wilkowski, OCD visits Lafayette, La.
OCDS Community of Mary, Mother of Grace
August 24, 2019

Father Rafal Wilkowski, OCD, Secretary for the Nuns and Personal Secretary to Father General Saveiro Cannistra, OCD offered a spiritual conference to the Carmelite Nuns during the week of August 18 – August 26 and accepted an invitation to offer a conference to the OCDS members of Mary, Mother of Grace, as well as any other Discalced Secular and O. Carm members interested in joining us.

Father Rafal offered a short conference on **Saturday, August 24, 2019** at the Carmelite Monastery from **9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** for approximately 65 OCDS and O’Carm members discussing the topic of “Fraternal Communion” as referenced by Section III of the Constitutions of the Secular Order.



Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, OCD

Presenting conferences to the group
in the Chapel of the
Carmelite Monastery, Lafayette, La.



Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, OCD

Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, OCD joins
Jeannine Meaux, President of the
Community of Mary, Mother of Grace
for a social following the conference

News from around the Province —News from Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

The Lafayette Community of Mary, Mother of Grace celebrated the Temporary Promise of Jo Ellen Daspit and the Definitive Promise of Aline Breaux during a Mass held at the Carmelite Monastery on October 20, 2019.

Father Conley Bertrand, OCDS officiated the Rites for the Promises.



Father Conley Bertrand, OCDS confirms the Promises

Left—Aline Breaux and Right—Jo Ellen Daspit



Community Council Members congratulate the Candidates

Front Row: Ellen Daspit and Aline Breaux

Back Row: Karol Meynard, Vicki Guilbeau—Formation Director,
Sally Comb and Jeannine Meaux, - President



Betty Joe White, OCDS

St. Louis Community

Submitted by Candy Kunzelman, OCDS

Betty Joe White, fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church passed into eternity on Wednesday, September 11, 2019. She was 89 years old. Betty began her journey in Carmel at the St. Louis Community, in 1994. She was clothed on May 21, 1995, and made her First Promise on May 18, 1997, taking the name, Elizabeth of Jesus. Betty made her Definitive Promise on May 21, 2000. Betty had a deep love for God and a wisdom that grew from that union. 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. In life, Betty was a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF and was well decorated. She was truly humble and loved Carmel very much. Her Funeral Mass was held at St. Clare of Assisi Church. Interment followed at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery with full military honors. May God grant you eternal rest dear Betty. We will miss your laugh and your smile. Please pray for us as we pray for you.



Robert John Albrecht, OCDS

St. Louis, Community

by Candy Kunzelman, OCDS

Robert John Albrecht, fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church passed into eternity on Tuesday August 6, 2019. He was 88 years old. Robert began his journey in Carmel at the St. Louis Community, in 1989. He was clothed on November 17, 1991, and made First Promise on November 21, 1993, taking the name, Robert John of Teresa Benedicta. Robert made his Definitive Promise on November 11, 1996. Robert had a deep love for God and a wisdom that grew from that union. He gave himself to his Lord. Robert was President from March 1999 to February 2005. His 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. In life, Robert was devoted to his wife Janet, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as his Carmelite family. He was truly humble. His Funeral Mass was held at St. Joseph Church. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery. May God grant you eternal rest dear Robert. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Carmelite Obituaries



Shiuvaun H. Dougherty, OCDS

March 19, 1920 - July 11, 2019

*Community of St Therese of the Child Jesus and
St Raphael Kalinowski of St Joseph*
Sioux City, Iowa



It was on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel when Funeral Mass for Shiuvaun was celebrated and at the end of Mass her granddaughters sang "Gentle Woman". A beautiful tribute to her! Shiuvaun lived as a true Carmelite with our Blessed Mother Mary as her model and Saint Therese as her favorite saint. The following Saturday Feast of Saint Elijah Mass at the Carmelite Monastery was offered by Sioux City Secular Community for Shiuvaun.

Shiuvaun was one of the Founders of the Sioux City OCDS Community. She was clothed November 1986. First Promise September 1988 and Definitive Promise December 14, 1991. She was President in 1996, was a Councilor several different times throughout her 28 years in Carmel and was Formation Director in 1999. She also helped toward the Canonical Establishment in October 1992. She attended several OCDS Congresses with other members of our community. On one occasion Shiuvaun with Amelia attended a Leadership Workshop at Mount Carmel in Dallas and their flight going home they were put in first class cabin by the airlines without their knowledge! What a blessing and beautiful memory!



Shiuvaun was born on March 19, 1929, in Sioux City, the youngest daughter of Dr. John and Helen Murphy. She graduated from Cathedral High School in 1947, and from St Joseph Mercy School of Nursing in 1951. She worked as an RN in Sioux City during the polio epidemic and later as a surgical nurse at the Veterans Hospital in Omaha.



Carmelite Obituaries



(Continued from page 36)

On September 5, 1953, Shiuvaun married her husband of 64 years, John J. Dougherty, in Omaha. His career as a physician led to several family moves including to Madison WI, Omaha, and returning to their hometown of Sioux City in 1969.

Throughout her life, she focused on her eight children serving as Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, and countless school activities. She loved spending many hours with her 27 grandchildren. She was a proud supporter of Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools and Creighton University. In retirement years, she and her husband traveled, including a trip to Ireland to her father's family home and met with many cousins. They enjoyed spending time with extended family at their Lake Okoboji cabin.

Shiuvaun was a kind, generous, and caring person, dedicated to her faith and involved in her parish, including as President of the Blessed Sacrament Confraternity, St. Therese Study Club, and other activities.

She is survived by her eight children, Marty (Laurie) Dougherty of Sioux City, Mary Therese Dougherty of Omaha, Patsy Dougherty of Omaha, Sheila (Dan) Richter of Omaha, Diane (Tom) Crowley of Omaha, Kathleen (Shennen) Saltzman of Dakota Dunes, Molly (Greg) Eckert of Omaha, and Ann (Andy) Warren of West Des Moines; and 27 grandchildren.

Thank you, Shiuvaun, for your service to the Sioux City Secular Carmelite Community.



October 15—Feast of Holy Mother St. Teresa of Jesus



*May God bless you with his love on this
Feast of Our Holy Mother St. Teresa.
St. Teresa, pray for us today and always.*

*your servants in Carmel,
Claire, John, Jill, Anna, Jo Ann*



Nativity—Fra Filippo Lippi and Workshop , c 1445

Wishing the family of Discalced Carmelites
a Christmas full of hope and the peace of God
that surpasses all understanding.

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

“The souls of the just are in the Hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them,
They seemed, in the view of the foolish,
to be dead ...
But they are in peace.”

“Wisdom 3, 1-2”

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

Jillison Parks, Savannah, GA