



Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Province
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Fall 2020

Volume XXX No. 3

From the President's Desk

By Anna Peterson, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

Hello Carmelites,

Praised be Jesus Christ – now and forever.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face pray for us!

This summer has seemed to be a challenge for us with windstorms, flooding and hurricanes. During all this, it seems that our local OCDS communities have rallied with renewed efforts to explore ways to hold elections and provide formation, and even to hold meetings.

I believe a critical responsibility for each community, each local council, and each individual member is to make sure we maintain and foster a spirit of fellowship during this time that we cannot meet in person. We hear that members truly miss the fellowship and connection with each other. Father Aloysius Deeney, OCD, in his book *Welcome to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites* (page 95) writes the following regarding the spirit of community/fellowship:

The community prays together when you come to meetings, you receive instruction, and you discuss together important aspects of the Community, but there also has to be a fellowship part. This is taking a hint from Saint Teresa, when she was forming Saint John of the Cross to be a Discalced Carmelite in Chapter 17 in **The Book of Foundations**, (she talks) about taking him to Valladolid and she said, although there are many things that he could teach me about prayer, the only thing I could really teach him was recreation, our style of community. So, we take that hint that fellowship is actually part of formation or community. Recreation is a very Teresian term... So, the fellowship part is an integral part of your Community meetings.

If Father Deeney were addressing us right now, I believe he would challenge and urge us to find ways to strengthen fellowship and personal connection among our members. As Secular Discalced Carmelites, since we do not live in Community, we must create that fellowship, that community.

UPDATES

Triennial Elections. We welcome the new Local Councils. Approximately 27 of our 33 communities have completed the process. We want to assure those who



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From the President's Desk

By Anna Peterson, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

†
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.

(Continued from page 1)

have not been able to hold an election that there is no pressure to do so. Prudence and safety are paramount.

SAVE the DATE! The Plenary Council meeting required by statute is in the planning stages. It will be a **ZOOM** meeting scheduled for Sunday afternoon, November 15 at 3:30 p.m. CST / 4:30 p.m. EST. Councils will receive a letter with more details. Each community should have two members present: the President and an elected representative from the community. (See - OCDS Statutes: Section XXI: Plenary Council Meeting p. 44)

Reminder of Triennial Appointment/Reappointment of Spiritual Assistants. One of the duties of the new Local Council is to petition for the appointment or reappointment of a Spiritual Assistant. The Local Council petitions the Provincial Delegate (Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD).

See Policy and Request Form at
[SA Appointment Procedure](#)
[Petition for Spiritual Assistant Form](#)

In this issue . . .

- Article offering examples of how some communities are dealing with formation and meetings.
- Letter from our Provincial Delegate, Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD explaining a Semi-Province

Congress Update:

An email blast from the Congress coordinators regarding the Congress updates will be forthcoming.

Please be assured of our continued support and prayers. Turn to our Carmelite Saints for their intercession and words of solace and encouragement.

Yours in Carmel,

Anna Peterson, OCDS

**President, Provincial Council
for the OCDS Oklahoma Province**

Council Members:

*Barbara Basgall, OCDS, Mark Calvert, OCDS,
Maxine Latiolais, OCDS and Jillison Parks, OCDS*

Nada te turbe, nada te espante . . . Solo Dios basta.

Let nothing disturb you . . . God alone suffices.

(Holy Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus)

Everything is a grace.

(St. Therese)

Report from the Provincial Delegate

Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,
Happy Feasts of St. Therese and St. Teresa!

It gives me great pleasure to serve you as the Provincial Delegate to the OCDS. The beginning of this new triennium has been marked by major challenges and changes to life as we know it. It is also presenting us with a time of grace and opportunities for spiritual growth.

I want to provide a few words of support and encouragement to our local Councils. Some of you are newly elected and many are in communities still waiting to hold elections. Schedules and timelines used in the past are no longer relevant in the situation in which we find ourselves, community life seems suspended, questions seem to pop up every day, and we begin to feel anxious and unsure.

I encourage your Councils to begin this journey of the new triennium with confidence and hope. Here are some suggestions I have for councils to consider in the decision-making process:

Section VIII No. 2 Community Life of the Statutes states:

The local Council is the immediate, competent authority of the local community within the limits of the Constitutions of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites [Art. 47]. The local Council has the authority and responsibility to develop appropriate methods and means to facilitate human and spiritual growth which will enable the members to understand and live fully their Promise in the community and in the Order. The local Council shall continuously assess the health of the community to determine what is needed to nurture its members.

Each local Council is basically the “superior” of that community. It operates as a deliberative entity. The wisdom in this direction is that no one has to make decisions alone. It is a shared responsibility, so each member of the Council has a duty and a right to express an opinion and to be heard. Once a decision has been made, the Council is of one accord.

In contrast, **the Provincial Council** (PC) operates as a consultative entity except while making visitation as a representative of the Provincial with the authority of that office.

In all questions the “principle of subsidiarity” should be kept in mind. It is defined as “an organizing principle” in which matters ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority and only when this is not resolved at that level does it proceed to the next level of authority. What can be decided at the local level should be decided at that level, if there is something that falls outside of that level’s competency then help is requested from the next level of competency.

If there is a question about an issue, I would suggest first to examine our OCDS Legislation and the Policy and Norms for the Province found on the PC website (<http://www.thereseocds.org/policy/>) As many have found, being on the local Council or the PC certainly makes each of us more familiar with and appreciative of our legislation.

(Continued on page 4)

Report from the Provincial Delegate

Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD
Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

(Continued from page 3)

I would also like to remind the Councils that in question of the Spiritual Assistant, this is something that the newly elected Council should reflect on and pray about, then consult the availability of the person being considered, and if they are willing to serve, get the written approval of their superior (or bishop), then send the appropriate approvals and request to me for approval at the Provincial level. The Spiritual Assistant **must** be approved at the beginning of every triennium.

In Him,
Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD
Provincial Delegate



So ... Just What is a Semi-Province?

Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

I've been asked to give a short explanation on the meaning of the change of status of our circumscription from province to semi-province.

A circumscription is any 'territory' that is being ministered by the friars. That can be any territory such as a 'mission' or a territory that is directly overseen by our Father General and the Definitory. There is a section in the 'Norms' of the friars [Chapter 1: The Organization of the Order] that spells out all of the various steps needed to be taken to establish a province.

*'Norms' are the guidelines on the 'how to' apply the Rule and Constitutions in the living out of the Charism of the Order.

So – our 'territory' (circumscription) with the convocation of our Chapter of 2020 has been changed in status from 'province' to 'semi-province.' Why and what does this mean?

As the Order grew over the centuries, there was a process by which a territory was established and achieved its own administrative responsibilities; it would no longer be 'dependent' on the 'founding' province (in our case the Province of Aragon-Valencia). Within the context of the OCDS, think of it as all the steps required to go from a Study Group to a canonically erected Community with your own Council and formation team. Well – there was a process for growth but it never was an administrative/judicial process for provinces that were reducing in number of members, as is in our case.

When there is a General Chapter, a convocation of all of the Provincials of the world called together to elect our Father General, each Province sends two voting representatives. But as there has been a reduction in vocations within our Order, it wasn't seen as 'right' for a province of 200 friars to send 2 voting members and be on equal footing (in terms of voting power) with a province that only had 30 friars. So, Father General and his Council began to investigate the possibility of 'reducing' the status of different territories to better reflect their membership and their voting power in the larger context of the Order at the international level.

SO – in our situation, a territory with 15 or so members, would be reduced to the status of a semi-province, administratively the only thing that changes is that instead of there being a Provincial with four Councilors, in a semi-province there is the Provincial and two Councilors. Everything else stays very much the same in terms of relationships with dioceses and the center of the Order itself. It is not a real help in terms of less administration and is really about its level of participation on the international level within the world-wide context of the Order of Discalced Carmelites.

Community in Times of Pandemic

by Mark S. Calvert, OCDS, Provincial Councilor
Knoxville, Tennessee

These are indeed unusual, challenging times in which we live. Civil unrest and natural disasters are interwoven with economic dislocation and previously unknown dangers to our health. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced people across the globe to change many aspects of their daily lives. Many have suffered and died from this pandemic. So this is a time when our own human weakness and dependence on God are brought to the forefront of our minds. And this is a time when we are especially blessed to be a part of the Discalced Carmelite Order.

In the face of these changes in our circumstances and the threats to our mortal existence, I am reminded of the importance of community. Many of us, accustomed to the blessing of daily reception of the Eucharist, have had to endure months without gathering in the presence of one another to receive the sacraments. Compounding that, we miss the presence and support of others, especially our Carmelite brothers and sisters. We especially need our Carmelite communities at this time. So we must listen to the Holy Spirit and explore new ways of nurturing and fostering the growth of the Carmelite charism, in ourselves, in our communities, and beyond.

Many of the OCDS communities and study groups in the Province have done just that. Through the use of generally available technology, both new and old, many communities have been able to conduct monthly meetings so that their members can stay in touch with one another and continue formation. Our three most recent Popes have been especially supportive of using communication technology for positive good and furthering the New Evangelization. Here are some ways in which our Carmelite sisters and brothers have been able to do just that.

The simplest technology that communities have used for bringing Carmelites together is that old reliable device, the telephone. Some communities have set up one or more free accounts on FreeConferenceCall.com, a website that allows multiple people with land-line telephones or cell phones to dial in to a central number and speak together as if they were in the same room. Depending on each member's own phone's plan, individual members may incur long distance charges when dialing in, but many people now have phone service that allows a certain amount (often an unlimited amount) of toll-free long distance calling each month.

Another option is video conferencing, which is offered by services such as Skype, Google Meet, and Zoom. This requires a camera and microphone, but most laptop computers and all smart phones have those already built in. Many communities in the Province have been able to gather together "virtually" using these video conferencing services, where you can not only hear but also see your fellow Carmelites. These services are also available for free, but often with limitations as to how many people can participate together or for how long. For example, a free Zoom account allows a meeting of up to 40 minutes, at which time you are disconnected from one another, but you may simply use the same emailed link to rejoin for another 40 minutes. Google Meet provides 60 minutes for free accounts. Both services allow up to 100 participants for free accounts.

These video conferencing services also offer subscription accounts (paid services) that allow unlimited meeting time and features including breaking up the meeting into smaller groups (such as for formation classes). Many businesses have these paid accounts and allow their employees to use the account for personal use as well. Check with your members to see if anyone in your group has this type of account with the necessary permission from their employer. If there is no one with such an account, you may have each formator or facilitator sign up for a separate free account. When the large group community meeting is over (for example the business meeting, social time, or community formation), the members at each level of formation can sign off the large group session and click on the emailed invitations from their formators or facilitators to begin a new session with their formation group.

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Community in Times of Pandemic

by Mark S. Calvert, OCDS, Provincial Councilor
Knoxville, Tennessee

(Continued from page 6)

A surprising number of the older members of the communities of the Province are already familiar with video conferencing, using their smart phones, tablet computers, or laptops, using these video services to talk with their children and grandchildren. Once you have tried using video conferencing, it soon becomes easy and familiar. And for those who still prefer conversing by telephone, the video conferencing services offer different options for some participants to simply dial in from a land-line phone so they can hear and be heard, without a camera or microphone. And if a member is still uncomfortable with the technology, they may be able to participate from the home of another member who can operate the technology.

Some communities have resumed face-to-face meetings (wearing face masks), often using different, larger meeting locations to allow social distancing requirements to be followed. Other communities have held meetings or profession ceremonies outdoors, using a portable tent-like covering for at least the celebrant and candidate. Another alternative is using a parish facility such as a covered picnic area or a large gazebo. Most of these communities meeting in person also have been setting up laptops or cell phones (set up as a “speaker phone”) to allow members who are at greater risk or otherwise uncomfortable attending an in-person meeting to still participate by telephone or video conference.

Of course each community member has a different health situation and comfort level with meeting in person, not to mention differing experiences and comfort with using phone and video-conferencing technology. Accordingly, participating by phone or by video conference carries the same weight with those communities as in-person attendance. And the communities whom I contacted who had addressed the issue have not counted any absences during the pandemic against a member for purposes of their attendance policy. But for members who are not yet definitively professed, they must participate in the meetings (including formation classes) in-person or by phone or video conference in order to progress in formation. Some communities are holding formation classes separately from the monthly meetings if all members of those classes are available (in-person or remotely) at a different time. Written work during formation has taken on a new value for some communities where face-to-face discussion is limited or not possible.

At least one community I surveyed mentioned hoping to continue using phone and video-conference technology even after the pandemic finally ends, so as to allow isolate and infirm members to participate in the meetings and feel more a part of the community. So, good can come from even a pandemic. As St. Paul put it, “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)

Community Questions & Answers

by the Provincial Council

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The following questions were posed to the Provincial Council (PC) recently.

Q. *I am the new Director of Formation for our Community. I read about the unfortunate issues surrounding Jean Vanier. His book, **Community and Growth**, is included in the Province's OCDS Formation Guidelines. Are we to continue using the book in formation?*

A. Communities may consider using the following as substitutes:

- 1) A letter from Father Saverio Cannistra, OCD, Superior General, dated March 2019 and found on the Provincial Home Page, Recent News for Formation I.
- 2) The article "Our First Duty as Carmelites," by Father Centner found under Best Practices, Community for Formation II on the Provincial website.

A notation has been made in the current Formation Guidelines found on the Provincial website referencing both articles.

* * *

Q. *I am the new President of our Community. Our Secretary mentioned to me that the secretary is to take minutes of community meetings as well as be at council meetings to take minutes. Is this required?*

A. **Section# 54** in the Constitutions states that the secretary is to be at Council meetings.

In practice, some communities appoint a Council member to act as secretary for Council meetings (only) and a different person as Secretary for the community meetings. This practice eliminates the issue of having the Secretary who is not a member of the Council having to leave and wait during interviews, discernments, etc. This also eliminates the duty of attending an additional meeting for a person who is not on the Council.

The main point is that minutes of both the council meetings and the community meetings are recorded, read, approved, and kept on file.

* * *

Q. As a new Council, we have not found it stated anywhere that there are term limits for treasurer or secretary. Are we missing something? Our current Treasurer has been treasurer for 9 years.

A. You are right, there are no limits on how long a person may serve as Secretary or as Treasurer. You will see, though, in section XVI.9 of the Provincial Statutes that the **new** Council (elected every three years) has discretion in how to appoint the Secretary and Treasurer. Treasurers and Secretaries of communities should not have any expectation of serving more than three years.

Some communities have appointed assistants to the Treasurer and the Secretary to develop leadership

News from the Province—The Most Holy Trinity Community Houston (4)

Submitted by Elizabeth Ogilvie, OCDS

The Most Holy Trinity Community celebrated the following during our annual retreat on February 27-March 1, 2020:

The Definitive Promise of Melinda Langeland, OCDS

The Temporary Promise of Mary Comeaux, OCDS and John Comeaux, OCDS

The Rite of Admission (Clothing) of Belinda Terro Mooney

On this happy occasion Father Jorge Cabrera, OCD presided for all Rites.



Pictured: Belinda Terro Mooney,
Melinda Langeland, Mary Comeaux,
John Comeaux

Pictured: John Comeaux, Mary Comeaux,
Father Jorge, Melinda Langeland,
Elizabeth Ogilvie, Belinda Terro Mooney



News from the Province—Mobile, Alabama Community

Submitted by Karina Schubert, OCDS

After being unable to meet for two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Holy Spirit Community tried meeting over the video-conferencing application, Zoom, to catch up on how everyone was doing, to support each other with prayer, and to share spiritual reading recommendations. We also discussed the new way of “attending Mass” video-streaming from local churches, churches around the United States and the world. It was good to see and hear from so many of our members.



Top: Vera Fricano, Paul and Karina Schubert, Collette Bookman, Robbie Hayes

Middle: Vivien Hecker, Sylvia Sullivan, Maureen Sacramona, Gloria Schneider

Bottom: Marie Langan, Robert Gareri, David McAleer, Kathy Falls

ILLNESS: GOD'S MERCY

Submitted by Brenda Nicholson, OCDS
Community of the Transfiguration, Knoxville, Tennessee

“I willingly boast of my weakness, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.” 2 Cor 12:9-10

Illness can be a great gift because God is able to transform us through it so that we can more perfectly live united to our Resurrected Lord in the Spirit. It seems to me that this is what St. Paul is writing about in this Scripture passage.

When I was healthy and strong, I was capable and self-reliant. I had money, authority and influence over others, a kind of power which I took for granted. My path in life was self-determined, and, though I strove to do God's Will, I often made decisions uncertain about what His Will was in the particular circumstance I found myself. Though I daily carried out active works of mercy as an oncologist caring for the needs of the sick and the dying, I seemed to make little progress in virtue and habitually sinned against charity. Even with a desire to live the evangelical council of poverty, through my own efforts I could not obtain the degree of poverty to which we are called. I lacked the self-knowledge to recognize my attachments until they were being taken from me. Through the effects of Alzheimer's disease, all that I once had held on tightly was taken away.

The process of becoming materially and spiritually poor is painful. One experiences grief from loss, anxiety due to changing circumstances, fear brought on by feelings of powerlessness and a lack of control, and humiliation after humiliation. Through it all, we are brought low to find ourselves weak, naked, vulnerable and needy. Then we learn that the world often responds to the poor and needy without justice and mercy, but instead in a way that compounds suffering.

But now comes the turning point. God shines a ray of light that penetrates our darkness. God helps us see and discover, even in the midst of our difficulties, His Merciful Love. We discover that God's Divine Action has been actively at work though all we have experienced to make us more humble and poorer in spirit, and to perfect and purify our love. We can then see the cross as a gift that opens us to receive more fully the Holy Spirit and God's grace which heals our souls and develops charity in our hearts.

Meditating on the Crucifixion of our Lord in times of suffering, we come to know and experience the love of Jesus, and through Christ, the Divine Love of the Trinity. We come to recognize that we are truly communal in our nature, both with creation and with God. We begin to live in solidarity with all who suffer in the world, united by our shared experiences. We become moved by an understanding love and compassion which makes us spend our days doing works of mercy. We have personally experienced a thirst for love and mercy and the pain of unmet need; and so, we draw from these experiences to give the gift of mercy and love to others that brings comfort to the mind and body, and hope to the soul.

As our weakness becomes more firmly established through progression of a serious illness, we begin to reach a point when we can no longer provide for ourselves or satisfy our needs and desires through our own efforts. We begin to reach a point when our efforts must transition from active works to more contemplative works. We begin to reach the point when we need to give up trying to control our destiny and strive instead to trust in God's Providence with greater abandonment. As we cooperate with grace in this way, we begin to experience greater peace, joy and liberty of spirit, even in the midst of suffering and confinement. Our hearts are filled with gratitude which finds its expression in prayers of thankful praise. Through all we have been through, we discover the beautiful garden the Holy Spirit has created in our souls. We are drawn into the inner sanctum of our souls and find our rest in the Presence of God. Here we delight in God who delights in us.

(Continued on page 12)

ILLNESS: GOD'S MERCY

Submitted by Brenda Nicholson, OCDS
Community of the Transfiguration *Knoxville, Tennessee*

(Continued from page 11)

We profess a faith that is built on the foundation of the Apostles, the saints and our Holy Catholic Church; a faith that is developed and strengthened through our personal experiences; a faith that we testify to and bear witness to by lives transformed through grace. God's ways are not our ways, and His Wisdom is beyond our comprehension. When we are powerless, it is then that we are strong, for God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. He comes to the help of His servants, and has mercy on all those who fear Him in every generation. The Almighty does great things for us, and Holy is His Name.

Footnote:

Brenda Nicholson, MD worked as an oncologist until her diagnosis with Alzheimer's Disease in 2014 at the age of 49.

Carmelite Obituaries



Irene Washington Mouton, OCDS

Community of Mary Beloved of the Trinity

New Iberia, Louisiana

Submitted by Toni Simoneaud, OCDS

Irene W. Mouton, 63, passed over into eternal life surrounded by family on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at Ochsner's Medical Center, Jefferson, Louisiana. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Patterson, Louisiana on September 19, 2020. Embracing the memories of Irene's beautiful life are her children, Tashona Mouton and Clarence W. Mouton.

Clothed in the Scapular of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites on October 17, 1999. Irene made her First Promise November 18, 2001 taking as her devotional title Irene Bernadette Therese of Jesus Crucified. She made her Definitive Promise on November 21, 2004. She expressed a deep love and gratitude for her church family. She served as Councilor of our community and will be greatly missed by all.



Lynn Vorhoff Bares, OCDS

October 27, 1938 - September 16, 2020

Mary Beloved of the Trinity, New Iberia, Louisiana

Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, September 21, 2020 at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Erath, Louisiana honoring the life of Claire "Lynn" Vorhoff Bares, 81, who died Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at her residence. She was interred at St. Mary Magdalen Cemetery, Abbeville, Louisiana with Fr. Andre Metrejean officiating the services.

In 2018, Lynn was awarded the Bishop's award for her dedicated service to the Church. She was clothed in the Scapular of the Discalced Order of Carmel on January 17, 2010. She made her First Promise December 9, 2012 and was Definitively Professed December 19, 2015 taking the devotional name of Claire of the Light of Christ.

Lynn is survived by her husband of 63 years, Allen M. Bares, Sr.; son, Kenneth Bares and his wife, Melissa; two daughters, Claire Pipes and her husband, Bill, and Brenda Bares. She was preceded in death by her son, Allen Bares, Jr.

Carmelite Obituaries



Annie Mae Vincent Miller, OCDS

May 1, 1929—September 7, 2020

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace

Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

Funeral Services were held at 1:00 PM on Friday, September 11, 2020 in the Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers for Annie Mae Vincent Miller, 91, who passed away on September 7, 2020 at Lafayette General Medical Center.

Annie was born and raised in Lafayette and a long-time parishioner of St. Genevieve Catholic Church where she devoted much of her time and energy to serving Jesus Christ. Until her health began to fail earlier this year, she was an active member of the Ladies Altar Society, sewing and laundering altar linens, organizing teams to clean the church weekly, and making sure everything and everybody was in place. As a Eucharistic Minister, she distributed Holy Communion at Church and in area nursing homes, coordinating services and servers for the various locations. She had also been a Cursillista with the Lafayette Ultreya.

Annie entered Carmel and was clothed in the Carmelite Scapular on May 29, 1989. She professed her Temporary Promise on May 19, 1996 and her Definitive Promise on May 16, 1999.

When her children and later her grandchildren were in school at St. Genevieve and Teurlings Schools, Annie volunteered many hours with the PTO, Brownie Troops, Cub Scouts, and the Athletic Booster Club. Her favorite volunteer “job” was getting parents and grandparents to help serve meals in the cafeterias of the two schools. She made many new friends, young and old, who kept her smiling.

Annie had a great love for God and exhibited that love with her family and friends. She was devoted to her children and grandchildren as well as her Carmelite family.



O Saint Teresa, seraphic Virgin, beloved spouse of thy crucified Lord, thou who on earth didst burn with a love so intense toward thy God and my God, and now dost glow with a brighter and purer flame in paradise: obtain for me also, I beseech thee, a spark of that same holy fire which shall cause me to forget the world, all things created, and even myself; for thou didst ever avidly desire to see Him loved by all men. Grant that my every thought and desire and affection may be continually directed to doing the will of God, the supreme Good, whether I am in joy or in pain, for He is worthy to be loved and obeyed forever. Obtain for me this grace, thou who art so powerful with God; may I be all on fire, like thee, with the holy love of God. Amen. (By St Alphonsus de'Liguori)

Flos Carmeli provides information for the Secular members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Oklahoma Province, which has jurisdiction over OCDS members living in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

Oklahoma Province members wishing to submit articles for publication in the *Flos Carmeli* or for subscription information, please contact Maxine Latiolais, Provincial Council *Flos Carmeli* coordinator, at flos.submit@gmail.com
The submission due dates for articles are:

January 1
April 1
July 1
October 1

Any OCDS member submitting an article must include their name, community name, and community location in the article.

Soliloquies: 7

"Be joyful, my soul, for there is someone who loves your God as He deserves. Be joyful, for there is someone who knows His goodness and value. Give thanks to Him, for He has given us on earth someone who thus knows Him, as His only Son. Under this protection you can approach and petition Him, for then His Majesty takes delight in you. Don't let any earthly thing be enough to separate you from your delight, and rejoice in the grandeur of God; in how He deserves to be loved and praised; that He helps you to play some small role in the blessing of His name; and that you can truthfully say: My soul magnifies and praises the Lord."

St. Teresa of Jesus

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 2020-2023 Triennium:

Anna Peterson, San Antonio, TX, President

Barbara A. Basgall, Oklahoma City, OK

Mark Calvert, Knoxville, TN

Maxine Latiolais, New Iberia, LA

Jillison Parks, Savannah, GA