

Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Province
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Summer 2020

Volume XXX No. 2

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,

May Mary, Mother and Beauty of Carmel, bless us!

About a week ago, the OCDS Provincial Council (PC) sent a letter to all Community Presidents providing updates and information. Some of that same information is included in this letter.

COVID-19 continues to challenge our lives at every turn. Daily news can be troubling and sad; yet also reveal stories of heroism and hope bringing to mind a quote from A Tale of Two Cities – “It was the best of time , it was the worst of times, . . . it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness . . .” In the midst of all this uncertainty, we are filled with gratitude and joy for our Faith and our Carmelite vocation.

*Abide in peace, banish care, take no account of all that happens.
And you will serve God according to His good pleasure and rest in Him.
(Holy Father, St. John of the Cross)*

UPDATES

Triennial Elections have been delayed throughout the Order calling for prayerful patience until eligible members can be physically present to vote.

The **Leadership Workshop and triennial Plenary Council Meeting** scheduled for September was cancelled. The PC is exploring ways to conduct the Plenary Council meeting during 2020.

We are happy to announce that **Fr. Luis Joaquin Castaneda** is the Provincial for the new triennium. Appointments were made during the Chapter meeting held by the friars the last week of May and the first week of June. **Fr. Stephen Sanchez** is the new **OCDS Delegate**. Welcome Father Stephen!

Planning for the September 2021 OCDS Congress in Houston, Texas, continues. Please support fund raising efforts by ordering the beautiful note cards of stained-glass windows from the Basilica of the Little Flower

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and also respond to the survey that the Planning Committee recently sent out regarding the Congress.

In this issue . . .

- Letter from our Fr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD, Superior General in Rome dated April 5, 2020, worthy of careful reading and meditation (Pg 10-12)
- Letter from our newly elected Provincial, Fr. Luis Joaquin Castaneda, OCD (Pg 3)
- New Provincial assignments for our Carmelite friars (Pg 4)

† 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.

Question and Answer

Q. How should we, as OCDS, refer to ourselves? I have heard several different examples – Seculars, lay Carmelites, Secular Carmelites?

A. At an Inter-Plenary Council meeting in 2019, Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzalez, OCD, Provincial of the Arizona-California Province of St. Joseph, asked that we refer to ourselves as **Disalced Carmelite Seculars**. Since we are true members of the Order, this brings us in line with the Disalced Carmelite Friars and Disalced Carmelite Nuns. Note that is actually incorrect to refer to ourselves as Third Order Carmelites (TOC). This is the correct designation for O. Carm seculars. We also should not use the incorrect term, “Lay Carmelites,” when referring to ourselves.

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

Very Rev. Luis Joaquin Castañeda, OCD
Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

It is a privilege to address you for the first time as your Provincial. I hope in God that you and your loved ones are healthy. You have all been in our prayers.

I know that you have been praying for us since you heard the news about three of our fathers contracting the Coronavirus. They are doing fine and I hope in God that by the time you read this newsletter they will be back to community and parish life.

At the present time all of the friars are in quarantine in our present communities. Therefore, our plans for the beginning of the triennium, for our pastoral work, and for our communities are on hold. When this happened there were many questions, but you know the true answers come from God, who knows better than us. We accept His will, trusting in His mercy, and being aware that He knows what is good for us.

A person asked me, “Do you think God is punishing us?” I said, “No, I think He is purifying us.” To be aware of God’s love for us helps us to accept his purification and this should give us hope because God wants us to be Holy and do His will.

It was not my intention to begin my letter speaking about the Coronavirus pandemic, however, as you know this is affecting all of us and it is impossible to ignore it. Nonetheless, I would like to share about other things that are happening in our Semi-Province. The first news is that we have become a Semi-Province at the beginning of our Chapter.

Our Provincial Chapter took place two weeks ago, the last week of May and the first week of June. A Provincial Chapter takes place every three years and during our Chapter meetings we evaluate all the aspects of our vocation as Discalced Carmelites. We try to take the good experiences from the triennium that we conclude and apply them to our present triennium hoping they will help us to deepen our vocation and live it in a better way.

One significant thing that we have been planning since last triennium and will take place this present triennium is the Capital Campaign which perhaps you have heard about from Fr. Stephen. Moreover, we speak about the goals for the new triennium and many other things such as the current and future projects in our Basilica in San Antonio and any other house of the Semi-Province. Another thing that we do during our meetings is speak about how we live our life day to day. For example, at the Semi-Province level we will keep restructuring ourselves in a better way in order to be able to live a more intense community life which is an essential aspect of our vocation.

As mendicant friars we are supposed to move from community to community every three years. It is true that here in our Semi-Province we have not been able to do so every triennium because of the small number of members. Nevertheless, this time most of us are going to make a change. Summer for us here in the Semi-Province will be a time of transition and a time of beginning in a new place. There will be a lot of changes in our personal lives as well in the lives of our communities and parishes. Please keep all our friars in your prayers as we begin our new assignments.

I look forward to meeting you and helping you in any way during this triennium. Please be sure of my prayers, especially in asking our good Lord to keep you and your loved ones in good health! I wish you a blessed summer.

**News from around the Province—
Provincial Assignments for the 2020-2023 Triennium.**



San Antonio, Texas

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Thérèse Parish (Little Flower Basilica)

Superior: Fr. Jorge L. Cabrera, O.C.D.
Pastor: Fr. Gregory Ross, O.C.D.
Conventuals: Fr. Raul Reyes, O.C.D. Fr. Sam Anthony Morello, O.C.D.
Fr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, O.C.D.
In Residence: Fr. Luis Joaquin Castañeda, O.C.D.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thérèse ("Little Flower") Parish

Superior & Pastor: Fr. Luis Gerardo Belmonte-Luna, O.C.D.
Parish-Vicar: Fr. Jesus Sancho, O.C.D.

Dallas, Texas Mount Carmel Center

Superior: Fr. John Magdalene Suenram, O.C.D.
Conventuals: Fr. Marion Joseph Bui, O.C.D.
Fr. James Anthony Curiel, O.C.D.

St. Mary of Carmel Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Jenaro Gonzalez de la Cruz, O.C.D.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Marylake)

Superior: Fr. Jerome Earley, O.C.D.
Conventuals: Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.
Fr. Henry Bordeaux, O.C.D.
Fr. Stephen Sanchez, O.C.D.

State of the Heart of the 2021 Congress



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

FLOS - Summer 2020

Hurry!
**The Congress Note Card
Fundraiser Ends Soon**



**Orders due by
August 1, 2020!**

Pre-order your note cards today.
Go to the 2021 Congress website
for more information on how to
order.

<https://www.2021ocdscongress.com>



Secular Carmelites of
the Province of St.
Therese - Oklahoma

Planning for the 2021 Congress is in full swing, and we need your help!

We humbly request that you please take a few moments to provide your feedback in a Congress Interest Survey. Your response will be of great assistance to us as we move forward with our planning -- the more responses we get, the better!

Congress Interest Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S395JGX>

We ask that you please provide feedback
by July 31, 2020!

We have also been in contact with our venue for the 2021 Congress, the Omni Houston, and they are working hard to ensure the safety of their hotel guests.

If you'd like to learn more about this, you can view the Omni Safe and Clean page here:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/omni-safe-and-clean>

We thank you in advance for your participation in completing this survey!

Carmelite Secular Day of Recollection—Jackson, Mississippi—February 26, 2020

By Tom Head and Dorothy Ashley, OCDS

On Saturday, February 22nd, 2020, the St. Joseph and St. Therese of Lisieux Community of Discalced Carmelite Seculars (OCDS) sponsored a pre-Lenten Day of Recollection, "With Christ in the Desert," at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Forty-five attendees, from parishes throughout the metro area, spent the day with Fr. Jorge Cabrera, OCD, Superior of the Mount Carmel Center in Dallas, Texas. The attendees were invited to apply the teachings of Carmelite tradition and scripture to their deserts or wilderness, which Fr. Jorge described as those "life circumstances that are beyond our control and bring about suffering, confusion, disorientation, and a shift in our sense of reality about life, ourselves and God." Fr. Jorge focused heavily on Jesus' three temptations in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11) and invited us to follow our Lord's example by resisting the temptations of comfort, prestige, and institutional power. He also noted parallels between this passage and the way God appeared to Elijah at Mt. Horeb in 1 Kings 19 — not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in the silence. He encouraged us also to return habitually to the practices of silence, solitude, prayer, and recollection, the very soul of a Carmelite's vocation. In the image of betrothal seen in Hosea 2:16-22, we see God calling His Beloved (us) into the wilderness so that His Beloved will be in a loving, trusting, protected covenant relationship with only Him.

One should guard against spiritual appetites or attachments that distract us away from the "Giver" and focus more on ourselves, the "gift." "Being a saint," Fr. Jorge expressed, "is not a personality type." Our capacity to desire, which is blind and must always be reined in by faith and reason, does not exclude the desire for spiritual gifts, spiritual enlightenment, or even Heaven. And the presence of spiritual gifts, or even supernatural visions and locutions does not mean that God loves that person more than others, or endorses their conduct. "Sometimes," Fr. Jorge said, "We need to go to the desert and lose everything, and reject power and gifts, to be closer and more obedient to God."

God does not promise that the desert experience will be easy, but Fr. Jorge reminds us that God repeats continually to us: "Be not afraid," and "I am with you." (Isaiah 41:10). The desert is necessary to encounter and re-encounter God and to purify our hearts from false values of the world," said Fr. Jorge. "Jesus Christ is God's answer to fallen state."

Dorothy Ashley, President of the local Community of Carmelite Seculars spoke briefly answering the question, "What is a Discalced Carmelite Secular?" Dorothy stated, "She/He is a member of the Secular Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Teresa of Jesus (Avila), who is a practicing member of the Catholic Church who, under the protection of Our Lady of Mount Camel, and, inspired by Saint Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, makes the commitment to the Order to seek the face of God for the sake of the Church and the world."

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Carmelite Secular Day of Recollection—Jackson, Mississippi—February 26, 2020

By Tom Head and Dorothy Ashley, OCDS

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Possible Virtual OCDS Retreat for Your Community

Many OCDS communities have been unable to host their annual retreat because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some YouTube links for a possible virtual retreat for your community.

The presentations are by Fr. Greg Homeming, OCD who was appointed bishop of Lismore, Australia in 2016.

A little about Fr. Homeming:

Born in Sydney on May 30, 1958, to an Australian-Chinese family, Fr. Homeming completed his primary education in Shepparton, Victoria and secondary school at St. Aloysius College, Milsons Point. He took degrees in Economics and Law at Sydney University and then worked as a lawyer in a Sydney law firm from 1981 to 1985.

In 1985, Fr. Homeming joined the Discalced Carmelite Order making his first profession on February 1, 1987. He then studied for a Bachelor of Theology at Melbourne College of Divinity and a Masters in Philosophy at the University of Melbourne.

Fr. Homeming was ordained a priest on July 20, 1991. As a Discalced Carmelite, he has held the positions of Major Superior, Novice Master, Prior, and Retreat Director.

The first presentation is “St. Teresa and Carmelite Spirituality” and the second is “Sacrament of the Cross.” Both presentations are about 40 minutes in length.

1. [EC2006 - Father Greg Homeming, OCD - Carmelite Spirituality](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKxvZsBLyZY)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKxvZsBLyZY>)
2. [EC2006 Father Greg Homeming, OCD - The Sacrament of the Cross](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iySmIUFrJOk)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iySmIUFrJOk>)

Possible Websites for Research

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many states are still in lockdown or limiting the ability for OCDS members to attend meetings, retreats, and conferences. Below is a list of some resources that might be helpful during this time. This is not an exhaustive list, but just a few ideas.

Websites, YouTube Channels, blogs:

- [Mount Carmel Center on YouTube](#)
- [Oklahoma Carmelite Friars](#)
- [Little Flower Basilica, San Antonio on YouTube](#)
- [ICS Publications](#)
- [Carmel in the Desert Blog, Candida Kirkpatrick, OCDS](#)
- [Carmelite Institute of North America](#)
- [Life as an OCDS Carmelite - Fr. Aloysius Deeney, OCD](#)
- [Carmelite Sisters of Los Angeles Blog](#)

Letter from the Father General— Fr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD



CASA GENERALIZIA CARMELITANI SCALZI
CORSO D'ITALIA, 38
00198 ROMA

A Wish in Time of Tribulation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

What we've been experiencing, more or less, all over the world for a few weeks can certainly be called a trial. In the New Testament there is a word, *thlipsis*, generally translated as "tribulation", which perhaps helps us name what we are experiencing. I mean not only a scientific name (like COVID-19 pandemic), or a name that expresses our immediate reaction (like emergency, war, calamity), but a name that brings us back to salvation history, to the truth of a God who has spoken to humanity, who became man and continues to walk with the children of men.

The danger, in fact, is to face this time, so serious and important, either by leaving faith out completely or, vice versa, by resorting to a religiosity that has little to do with the God revealed in Jesus Christ. Pope Francis warned us: "Do not waste these difficult days!" It is normal that each one of us - like every responsible citizen - scrupulously follows the rules to avoid the spread of contagion, generously accepts the small sacrifices this entails and does what is in our power to help our neighbor and to create a climate of peace and humanity around us. It is equally normal that, as believers, we turn to God and pray for the sick, for those who care for them, for the many deceased, for the scientists involved in the search for a vaccine, and for all those who are destitute due to the economic crisis. And yet, there is a deeper level which has to do with the reading history with faith, with the presence of God in the midst of humanity's tribulations and trials. It is a level to which we perhaps prefer not to enter, remaining in silence. Silence is golden when it is a space for reflection, for an interior search, for listening in depth. Silence is not golden when it is the result of spiritual inertia and a blockage of thought, when we limit ourselves to swallowing massive doses of information without assimilating, evaluating, and processing it. Information which does not form us, but rather invades and weighs us down.

It is right to ask ourselves: do we have a word that comes from silent meditation and that can serve us at this time? A believing and praying word that can orient us, that is "a lamp for our steps and light on our path"? I confess that questions of this kind would be spontaneously and simply answered: no; at least for now we do not. The admission of this poverty would in any case be truer and appreciable than many easy and sometimes misleading speeches. But we cannot remain calm and inoperative when we lack this light and it is our duty to walk and accompany other people along the way. If we only worry about the health emergency and the consequent economic crisis, "What are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do the same?" (Mt 5,47). We are asked something more: to "search groaning" as Pascal said, to beg, to knock without tiring until a ray of light, a glimmer of heaven opens up for us and allows us to *andar en verdad*, to walk in truth.

In this spirit, I return to that word of the New Testament: *thlipsis*, tribulation. To begin with, tribulation is not a good thing; it is not a grace. Its synonyms are *anguish, persecution, hunger, nudity, danger* (Rom 8:35). There is a power of death that is at work in every form of tribulation and this

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Letter from the Father General—

Fr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD

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power puts us to the test, leads us into temptation by standing between us and Christ, between our weak and wounded humanity and the power of his resurrected life. The shadow of death that the power of tribulation casts on each of us is such that it obscures the sight of him who is beyond it. We would remain separated from light and life if in that same shadow, in that same death, there was not a trace, a presence of life. For the Christian, tribulation is always the place through which Christ has passed, indeed through which Christ continues to pass and leads us towards the light of Easter. When we say that we are saved, that we believe in salvation, we concretely believe that evil and death are already definitively defeated. But we also say something more difficult to accept, and above all to live and bear witness to, that the encounter with risen life is always in the crossing of evil and death. Tribulation continues to be what it is: the experience of pain and anguish, of bewilderment and affliction, but the force that pushes down, crushing and oppressing, is contrasted by a force that pushes forward and upwards attracting and raising. All the negative, humiliating, and annihilating force of tribulation consists in the temptation to separate us from Christ. And to this temptation we would certainly yield if the tribulation were not the tribulation of the body of Christ. If it were not a wound of his crucified and risen body, we would not be saved, nor could we emerge victorious from the struggle. Even if tomorrow, as if by magic, the pandemic were to end, even if everything were to begin again magically as if nothing had happened, we would not be saved.

In the *thlipsis* there is a forward movement, as if at a certain point history could make a leap, an acceleration towards the future. I think that one of the elements of consolation in tribulation (cf. 2 Cor 1:4) is precisely this: being able to perceive the shortness of time, the coming of the Kingdom. Can we hear, in the silence of this crisis, the "shepherd's whistle" which is almost imperceptible and yet has the strength to lead us back to him and to ourselves in him (cf. *Interior Castle*, 4M 3,2)?

Right now, we are confined at home, we have no freedom of movement. It is particularly hard not to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with the faithful, to hear confessions, to impart the anointing of the sick, to celebrate funerals for the many deceased, and to accompany families. If in the epidemics of the past men and women religious, priests and bishops, were in the front line alongside the suffering, today this is not possible. We are called to take a step back and make room for doctors, nurses, and volunteers who are the true heroes of this pandemic of the Third Millennium. To them, as is right, go the applause, gratitude, and admiration of the people. Should that worry us? Is the Church losing visibility and perhaps even credibility? There are those who think and speak of the levelling and subordination of the Church to civil authorities. I understand the bitterness, I understand the discomfort, but why do we constantly forget that the ways of the Lord are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts? "Without doubt it is a great grace to receive the Sacraments, but when the good Lord does not allow it, it is all the same, everything is a grace," (St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, *Carnet jaune*, 5.6.4). Why do we continue to think that the Church must impose herself on the world with the strength and wisdom of the world? If today we are given to live a time of kenosis, a time of concealment and loss, why refuse it? I am reminded of the prophetic words the theologian Joseph Ratzinger said 50 years ago on the radio about the future of the Church:

From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge — a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes, so it will lose many of her social privileges. [...] But in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her center:

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Letter from the Father General— Fr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD

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faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world. In faith and prayer she will again recognize the sacraments as the worship of God and not as a subject for liturgical scholarship. The Church will be a more spiritual Church, not presuming upon a political mandate, flirting as little with the Left as with the Right. It will be hard going for the Church, for the process of crystallization and clarification will cost her much valuable energy. It will make her poor and cause her to become the Church of the meek. The process will be all the more arduous, for sectarian narrow-mindedness as well as pompous self-will will have to be shed.

It will take time for this transformation, Ratzinger said, and I would add, it will take tribulations to broaden our views and bend our obstinacy. Perhaps part of this process is also the tribulation that today besieges us and imprisons us in the face of which we feel totally powerless.

Restrictions on freedom of movement are the aspect that strikes us most, forcing us to radically change our habits. But, when you think about it, it is not so much the space that we lack, especially for us, friars and nuns, who generally live in large buildings, perhaps even with a large garden. What we lack is rather time. We realize this now precisely because we have too much of it. The time we have makes us discover that we do not know how-to live-in time, that we have lost the dimension of time and therefore we must find it again. Today there is a superabundance of runners, joggers, hikers, trekkers ... significantly all terms of a global language, a *koiné*, that probably not even English speakers can recognize as their mother tongue. Instead there is a shortage of *viatores*, wayfarers and pilgrims in time. The eyes of the pilgrim are not fixed on the way, but on the destination; the pilgrim is not interested in the kilometres travelled, but in those that are missing to reach the place towards which his whole being is stretched. Because this is why he is on the way, because he is attracted by something that is not here, but beyond, something that he does not see, but for which he yearns.

The limitation of movement in no way prevents this movement towards the future; on the contrary, it could promote and stimulate it. We realize today that for us not to move means to sit in the present as on an empty and fragile box, which in order not to give in must be filled with things, with concrete, solid, and possessable objects. We have forgotten the sense of waiting; we cannot resist the emptiness and the tension of desire from which waiting springs. In fact, waiting is for those who love and not knowing how to wait means, after all, not knowing how to love. Waiting does not fill our empty space with objects, but with the subject we love. For this reason, waiting is also the time of memory, of retracing the plot of time in order to recognize the traces, signs, and parables of the one who has already come and who will come. Indeed, he is already coming "to make me certain / of his and my treasure". Without memory and without waiting, what would be left of us, little men and women?

Waiting for the Risen One, Happy Easter to all of you!

Rome, April 5, 2020



fr. Saverio Cannistra
Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, OCD
Superior General

News from the General Curia of the Teresian Carmel—Definitory Session



On June 1, the General Definitory began its quarterly meeting. A hallmark of this meeting is the confinement of the Superior General and Definitors in the General House in Rome since the last meeting in March. Logically, there have been no visits to provinces or travel of any kind, although the Definitory has been able to follow the situation of the circumscriptions using telematic technologies (electronic means).

During this time, the Definitory expects to analyze the state of affairs of the numerous provincial chapters that are pending. The hope is that it will be possible to celebrate most of them in June and July. Meanwhile, preparation for the next course will move forward, focusing on the General Chapter which is expected to be held in May 2021. An important milestone that will occur previous to that event is the Extraordinary Definitory in which the new provincial superiors are called to participate. Because the initial plan to celebrate it at the end of August in Mexico is unlikely, a new date will be decided upon in this meeting.

As usual, the Definitory expects to discuss other specific topics of interest in the present moment and especially took into consideration the way in which the unexpected and surprising coronavirus pandemic has affected friars, nuns, and seculars, and its consequences in the life of the Order.

Carmelite Obituaries



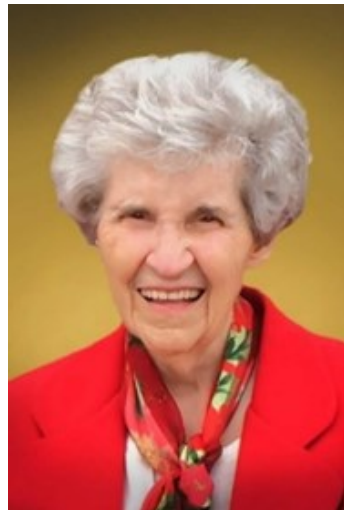
Jacquelin "Jackie" Janson, OCDS

St. Louis Community

Submitted by Candy Kunzelman, OCDS

Jackie Janson (née Trampe) fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church passed into eternity on Sunday, December 22, 2019. She was 86 years old.

Jackie began her journey in Carmel at the St. Louis Community, in 1988. She was Clothed on December 17, 1989, and made First Promise on November 17, 1991, taking the name, Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jackie made her Final Promise on November 20, 1994. She also made a Vow on November 21, 1999. Jackie had a deep love for God and a wisdom that grew from that union. She gave herself to her Lord. Jackie served as Secretary from 1994 through 1998 and, once again, from 2002 through 2003. She was Treasurer in 1999 through 2001. 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, Jackie was devoted to her husband, Norman, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as her Carmelite family. She was truly humble. Her Funeral Mass was held at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Church. Interment followed at Lake Charles Cemetery. May God grant you eternal rest dear Jackie. Please pray for us as we pray for you.



Gladys Leblanc Rhodes, OCDS

Mary Beloved of the Trinity, New Iberia, Louisiana

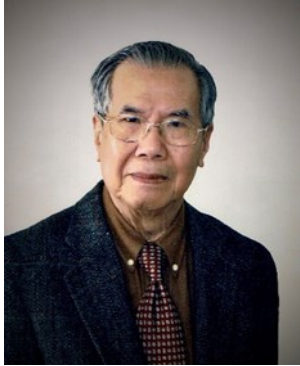
Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

Gladys Leblanc Rhodes, born January 27, 1927, age 93, entered into her eternal rest on Saturday May 30, 2020 surrounded by her loving family.

Gladys was a Carmelite Secular member of the Community of Mary, Beloved of the Trinity in New Iberia, Louisiana. She was clothed in 1990, professed her First Promise in 1992, and her Definitive Promise in 1997. Gladys was an Extraordinary minister of Communion at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Bayou Vista, Louisiana and a parishioner for 47 years. She was very passionate about God and her Catholic faith.

Funeral Services were held at Hargrave Funeral Home on June 2, 2020 at 11:00 am. Burial followed in the St. Joseph Cemetery in Patterson, Louisiana.

Carmelite Obituaries



Nguyễn Trọng, OCDS

Oklahoma City Community

Submitted by William Ginn

Nguyễn Trọng, or “Tony” as many knew him, age 92, passed away peacefully in his home on April 13, 2020 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was born in Vietnam on August 19, 1927 in Phát Diệm, Ninh Bình, a village centered around a beautiful stone cathedral where he was baptized as Saint Thomas Aquinas.

His life in Vietnam was shaped by his upbringing as a devout Catholic. As a scholar and romantic, he became a beloved professor of history, and of French and Vietnamese literature, while also working as a foreign diplomat. He had an insatiable pursuit of knowledge and was constantly immersed in research, books, and his own collection of countless writings.

He was a devout Roman Catholic and a member of Epiphany Catholic Parish. In his 70s, he answered his call to God through his greatest vocation as a secular Carmelite. He adorned his Brown Scapular as a symbol of his life’s consecration to God in the spirit of the Blessed Virgin Mary and his daily commitment to prayer. His funeral service was held at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery with an intimate ceremony on April 17, 2020. A memorial mass will be scheduled for a later date.

Carmelite Obituaries

Sister Alethia of the Lord Jesus, OCD

(Terry Kane)



February 11, 1932 • June 23, 2020
Profession of Vows • April 21, 1969



Carmel of Covington, LA

Terry Lila Rupert Kane was born on February 11, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois. Her father, Thomas Kane, a doctor, delivered her. All her life she was proud of the fact that her father was the first to hold her and welcome her into this world.

Terry attended Montreat College in North Carolina and was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Columbia University. At Montreat she became acquainted with the Billy Graham family and for a while was one of his helpers on his Crusades.

One summer, Terry volunteered to be a camp counselor for a group of youngsters going on a camping trip. One of her duties was to take some of the campers to church on Sunday. She took her group to a Catholic Church and was deeply moved by the beautiful decor of the church and the ritual of the Mass. She researched, studied, and eventually decided to become a Catholic.

Terry's desire to see the world was in great part fulfilled as a stewardess for Pan Am Airlines. While she was based in Atlanta, Georgia, she met the parents of a nun in the Carmel Monastery of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Terry entered Carmel in 1965 and a year later at her clothing ceremony, received the name Sister Altheia of the Lord Jesus. In 1992, she and three other nuns left the Lafayette Carmel to help revive and renew the Carmelite Monastery of New Orleans. Eventually the nuns re-located the New Orleans Carmel to Covington, Louisiana on the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

As a linguist, Sr. Alethia translated the first volume of *The Complete Works of Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity* and other Carmelite writings as well.

Sister Alethia died on June 23. Before she lost consciousness, she was singing, over and over, the hymn, *Love Lifted Me Up*. The Funeral Mass was celebrated in the Carmelites' Guardian Angel Chapel on June 27, followed by burial at St. Joseph Abbey Cemetery.



Parting Words

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.

A Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel,
fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the
Son of God,

Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.

O Star of the Sea, help me herein and show me here
you are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth,
I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart
to succor me in my necessity. (make request)

There are none that can withstand thy power.

O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times).

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times).

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