



Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Province
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Winter 2020

Volume XXIX No. 2

From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

Hello Carmelites,

Praised be Jesus Christ – now and forever.

Hello Carmelites,

Well, this is my last report to the OCDS of St Therese Province. By the time you see this I will be back in my own community and another PC President will be in harness. Being on the Provincial Council has been an adventure, always something new. I've enjoyed meeting so many Seculars around the Province, each person unique and yet each person a Carmelite. I hold you in my heart.

New to the Provincial Council

Mark Calvert, Maxine Latiolais, and Barbara Basgall are now on the PC and eager to serve you and the Lord. Please see their introductions found on Pages 4-6. Jill Parks and Anna Peterson are continuing on until 2023. We are blessed to have these five devoted Carmelites. God is good.

Local Council Elections

Please remember that OCDS community elections must be held before the Friars' chapter meeting. This year that means no later than early May. Some of you will have already had your elections. A thorough handoff will help your incoming Councils get up and running smoothly.

There are some excellent articles on the website that address local Council concerns and how a healthy Council functions. <http://www.thereseocds.org/best-practices-2/councils-and-developing-leadership/>

Fr Stephen asked me to remind communities that the incoming Council is responsible to assess their current **Spiritual Assistant** and discern whether to ask the Father Provincial for reappointment or replacement. Please refer to *Pastoral Care of the Secular Order* articles 14-18 to help this discernment (see page 3). The policy and procedure may be found here: <http://www.thereseocds.org/policy/provincial-policy/>



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From the President's Desk

By Claire Bloodgood, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

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Outgoing Councils, please remind incoming Councils about the **September 2020 Leadership Workshop**. They can send whoever they choose to the workshop. The triennial Plenary Council meeting will be held during the workshop. **Every community is to send their President and a member-at-large elected by the community to the Plenary Council meeting.** If the President is not able to attend, the Formation Director or other council member may be substituted.

Thank you again for your prayers and for your love and support. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you.

You are in our prayers as always.

Your sister in Carmel,

Claire Bloodgood, OCDS

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

Council Members:

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

Outgoing Council Members:

Jo Ann Murphy, OCDS and John Stevens, 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.

PC Channel—Excerpt from the Pastoral Care of the Secular Order

Spiritual Assistants (OCDS Constitutions, 44)

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.

Art. 15

1. The principal task of the assistant is to foster a deeper insight into Discalced Carmelite spirituality and to cooperate in the initial and continuing formation of the Secular Discalced Carmelites.
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.
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 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.
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.

New Provincial Council Member - Barbara Basgall, OCDS

I live in Oklahoma City with my husband, John. We have been married for 41 years and have three wonderful children and four wonderful grandchildren. As a member of the Community of The Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus, Oklahoma City, I have served as Councilor, President, Assistant Formation Director, and Formator.

For our Province, I assisted on the Formation Review Team and currently on the 2021 Congress Planning Team.

Currently, I coordinate the Homebound Eucharistic Ministers for my parish along with being a Homebound Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. An apostolate that I find so rewarding. I have served my parish in the past as a catechist for religious education, confirmation, guest speaker for RCIA and served in the Stephen's Ministry. I also volunteer at Sr. BJ Pantry, where the basic needs of the homeless are met with meals, food, clothing, podiatry, and eyecare.

I am very humbled and honored to have been selected to serve on the Provincial Council. Please pray for me to the Holy Spirit to be my guide in this position as I pray for all of you. God bless you and thank you.



Barbara A. Basgall, OCDS

New Provincial Council Member - Mark Calvert, OCDS

I was born in Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. I went to college and law school in North Carolina, during which time I met and married my wife Rosemary. Upon graduation, we worked for three and a half years in Washington, D.C., after which we moved back to North Carolina for new jobs.

I began my Carmelite formation in the Raleigh, North Carolina Community of St. Teresa of Jesus starting in 1992, making my final profession in 1997 and my vows in 1998. Upon moving to Tennessee to work for the Tennessee Valley Authority, I helped found the Knoxville Community of the Transfiguration starting in 1998. I have served as President and briefly as Formation Director. I currently facilitate our Formation II class.

I have served in various parishes in assorted capacities such as Reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, CCD Teacher, Parish Council member, and have played the bass at Mass with our Contemporary Ensemble. My wife Rosemary and I have four adult children: one son in Tennessee, two daughters in California, and one son in Wisconsin. I ask for your prayers for guidance, inspiration, and support as a member of the OCDS Provincial Council.



Mark Calvert, OCDS

New Provincial Council Member - Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

My roots are in the New Iberia area, right in the heart of Acadiana (Cajun Country) where there is a predominant Catholic population. I am completing my second term as President of my community, Mary, Beloved of the Trinity, New Iberia, LA. I have also served as recording secretary for Council meetings, retreat coordinator, and liturgy coordinator.

In my church parish I serve in several ministries. These include coordinating, training, and scheduling the Extraordinary Ministers and Readers, teaching Confirmation classes, webmaster for the parish website, administration for the parish's Facebook page, and sacristan for funerals.

I retired as office manager for a busy personal injury law firm and am now ready to devote spending time with my toddler grandson and to serving on the Provincial Council. I consider it a great privilege and a blessing to serve on the Provincial Council, and I pray that with God's grace I will continue to grow in my Carmelite vocation. I desire to serve my Carmelite brothers and sisters with dedication and love.



Maxine Latiolais, OCDS
pronounced latch-yöll-lä)

Christmas Greeting

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

from The Romances

of St. John of the Cross

~ a free translation

by Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

On the Blessed Trinity

We go back to the beginning, to when
In ecstatic Love Eternity sang out,
Echoing across the infinite meadows
Of its own flowering melody, resting

Beneath the imperturbable oak of Its
Heart's steady beat. Then the *Poem*
Stepped out from behind Eternal Light
Shining with joy, pure joy in being.

*

We understood then that this *Poem* was of God,
Was God in Its own right, God from God,
The beginning of all that is or yet may be—

God's Love had sprung forth singing of Spring,
And thus, it was that all had a beginning:

*"Yes, nothing precedes Me,
For Love is the Beginning,
Beginning-without-Beginning."*

This *Poem* was like a lullaby meant for God's
Beloved Son, who was born at the beginning
When God's imagination, having dreamt
Of a Son, first stirred to fashion Him

In the perfection of His divinity—God crafting
His depth and height, His length and breadth,
Then filling Him with His own breath, all
The while losing nothing of His wholeness:

*"This Child's become One
With My own eternal being, just
As a father loves
His son, another self, his heart
Brimming over with pride."*

*

"Think of someone you love," the Father said, "a beloved child perhaps, or a spouse, a parent, a sibling, a friend. You and this other person, whom you love and are loved by, live to some extent *through* each other, assuming your love is true—namely, that you love each other as truly another, other than yourself. Of course, through this love you then come to know each other, at first partially, then more and more, although never completely. Your love is always free to grow and afford continued amazement and wonder, while also risking disappointment, rejection, or betrayal."

*"So it is that Love unites,
Being one thing born of two,
A truth now stirring like breath
Between Us—Lover, Beloved,
And the Love between Us become
As true and real as We Ourselves."*

*

Such is the fullness of the Triune God,
Ever among us, one God, one Love,
Source of all, life-giving, nurturing,

Making Three One, and One Three—
Lover, Beloved, and Love. What Each is
All are in this intimate communion,

Each loving the Others with whom He
Shares being—a oneness arrived at again
And again, existing beyond all words,

Like the Tao, transcendent, omnipresent,
Boundless as the life of all, everywhere.

*God proclaims the law of all being:
"The more love makes one of two
The more is it truly alive as love."*

(Continued on page 8)

Christmas Greeting

By Father Bonaventure Sauer, O.C.D.

(Continued from page 7)

On the Incarnation

The clock struck morning's first watch,
And creation rose from nothingness
Prodded forth by the rosy dawning

Of eternity ever new. Dewy fields
Stepped into view and, in the distance,
Snowcapped mountains peered up.

Time had yet to hogtie humanity
With dull hours of work and want.
Instead, all lingered a moment,

Poised like a hatchling soon to launch
Into flight. And all of a sudden
The Father's voice thundered forth,

Shattering the air all around. This
Is what He said:

“Your bride, My Son,
Shines with the innocence of youth.

I have fashioned her to bear Your Light
Within herself; thus, her appearance
Will please you, her heart and hands

Wholly like Yours. Yet, unlike You,
She is constantly changing—now here,
Now there, coming and going like the rain,

Ebbing and flowing like the tide.
Yet it is an eternal law that love, to be true,
Must fully unite lover and beloved,

Reshaping each in the other's image.
And the closer their sharing, one
To the other, the deeper their joy.

Thus, I say—Your bride will rejoice
To see You at her side, with a face,
Like hers, caressed by the breeze,

With fingers, like hers, combing clods
Of rich loam, with hands, like hers,
Blessing bread and breaking it.”

*

The Son nodded. “I'll do it, to her I'll go;
It makes perfect sense to me—to show
Your goodness shining on all like the sun,
Your glory reflected in the face of Adam.

Yes, I'll hurry forth, darting from door to door,
Letting it be known in words of deep lore—
That You are all-powerful in Your mercy's munificence,
Your beauty as abundant as the Goldberg Variations.

So, I'm off to seek My bride, taking as My own
The trials and toil she now suffers alone;
I'll die in her midst, shouldering her distress,
Reclaiming all for her the hope of new bliss.”

*

So the Son summoned Gabriel
The Archangel, charging him
To fly posthaste to a lowly girl
Of a village called Nazareth,

A place of no importance. “She
Will be the new Eve,” the Son told
The angel; “her name is Mary.
Ask her consent—and, behold,
With it the mystery shall be.”

So it was. In her the Divinity,
Triune in Love's eternal oneness,
As one acted to cloth the Word
In human flesh, human history,
Human joy, and human need.

All Three wrought this mystery,
Working it as one in One, God's
Eternal Word, Who came to be
In Mary's womb. Thus, it was

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Christmas Greeting

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

(Continued from page 8)

That He Who had had a Father
Now had a Mother as well—for
From her flesh He took human
Flesh, and at her breast felt
Human need; in her arms He

Learned human joy, and from
Her lips heard of retold
The history of God's People—
Yes, in her God's Son became
A human being, a son of man.

On the Nativity

“And when the time drew near
For My mother to give birth,
Like a bridegroom I appeared
Shining upon this dark, cold earth.

I embraced My innocent bride,
Her eyes glowing with joy and awe,
While My mother, full of pride,
Laid Me in a bed of straw.

Creation rang out like tolling bells,
And angels sang in unison,
Celebrating with glad carols
The marriage of Two-made-One—

God in Me dressed in swaddling clothes
Softly cooing and crying,
And infant noises against the cold,
Which creation gave Me as My bride.

Mary pondered all this in her heart,
A wonderful exchange:
How in My eyes welled human tears
And in creation eternal cheer—
Each to the other in its part
A thing usually so strange.”



News from Around the World— Celebrating the Feast in the Carmel in Egypt



28 Dec 2019

During the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception this year, three young Discalced Carmelites from the General Delegation of Egypt: Friar Pedro, Friar Juan and Friar Zacharías made their solemn profession by the hands of Fr. Abuna Patrik (Patricio) Sciadini, delegate.

It was a moment of great joy for the Carmel in Egypt, with the presence of the families of the newly professed together with a large number of faithful.

The Eucharist was presided by the Bishop of Assiut, Monsignor Kyrillos William. There was also a large number of brothers from the Lebanon.



News from Around the World—

The 13th General Assembly of the Association of Monasteries of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the Philippines



To call the recently concluded General Assembly ordinary would be to downgrade it. For it is anything but ordinary and unexceptional.

As the first General Assembly after the Sacred Congregation gave us *Cor Orans* last year, it was the most opportune time and occasion to study the significant and radical changes the document made in our lives, in our communities and as an Association.

And as only a loving and merciful Father would design it, we had the Secretary General for the Nuns, Rev. Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, and a Canon Lawyer himself, for four days to explain the document and patiently answer our questions.

It was also the first General Assembly for the Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Kuching, East Sarawak, Malaysia since their acceptance to the Association last May 16. For us, Filipina Carmelites, it was equally the first General Assembly to try to break the language barrier, forgetting ourselves and our natural inclination to express ourselves in our native tongues.

The first few years of the Association was spent in bridging the gap between the federated Carmels and non-federated Carmels, more popularly known by two points in the compass. The South Federation willingly dissolved itself to give way to the Association on 14 June 1983.

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News from Around the World—

The 13th General Assembly of the Association of Monasteries of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the Philippines

(Continued from page 11)

The Association has grown in age and in spirit and has now spread its wings to include a sister Asian Carmel to face together the challenges of the present times as presented by *Vultum Dei Quaerere* and *Cor Orans*.

Aside from the task of revising its Statutes, the Assembly signified its desire to be an authentic “structure of communion” by changing its name.

The road ahead looks challenging, even intimidating but the novelty and radicalness of some of the norms could be exciting. And what makes the 13th General Assembly momentous is the fact that our efforts today will serve the Carmelites who will come after us. May all our endeavors follow closely the footsteps of Our Holy Mother, who declared, “I am a daughter of the Church.”



News from around the Province—2021 OCDS Congress

Submitted by Laura Durant, Congress Coordinator

State of the Heart of the 2021 Congress

Theme: Surrender to Him and Be Free to Love

FLOS Winter 2020



Registration Begins
October 2020!

More detailed information on Registration Open Dates & Costs will be sent to Presidents & Congress Liaisons very soon!

Start budgeting for the 2021 Congress today!

The 2021 OCDS Congress will be held September 9-12, 2021 at the Omni Houston Hotel in Houston, Texas. In order to help you prepare for the cost of attending, we're posting the **special room rates** for you below.

Room Rates at Omni Houston:

\$135/night (Single/Double)

\$145/night (Triple)

\$155/night (Quad)

You can visit the hotel website here:

www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston

Secular Carmelites of
the Province of St.
Therese – Oklahoma

Congress Announcement:

2021 Congress Co-Coordinator

With the vast responsibilities and coordination efforts involved in preparing for the Congress, we've determined it is prudent and necessary to have more than one person in the Congress Coordinator position for a variety of reasons.

We're excited to announce Michelle Estep will be stepping into the role of 2021 Congress Co-Coordinator. Michelle Estep is a part of the St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross community in Austin. She served as Website Team Lead for the 2017 Congress and will continue to serve as Website Team Lead for the 2021 Congress as well.

Donations Appreciated

In an effort to keep registration fees as low as possible and to pay for the increasing costs of expenses necessary to put on the Congress, as well as cover costs for friars to attend, we are praying individuals and communities will help us, both with prayer and monetary gifts.

Because installment payments to the Congress venue begin in early 2021, we are asking those who feel called to support the Congress with monetary gifts to try to do so in 2020. Each donation, large or small, is needed and very much appreciated. The tiered donation structure is below:

Sponsor a Friar \$750

Wisdom	\$375	Understanding	\$275
Knowledge	\$175	Piety	\$75

Kindly make the check payable to: Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Oklahoma – OCDS 2021 Congress.

Please mail donations to: Patricia Babcock, 119 Grassmarket, San Antonio, Texas 78259

*In Carmel,
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & St. Therese Community, San Antonio, Texas
(2021 Community Fundraising Lead)*

News from around the Province—2021 OCDS Congress

Submitted by Laura Durant, Congress Coordinator

(Continued from page 19)

Surrender to Him & Be Free to LoveWinter 2020



2021 OCDS Congress: September 9-12, 2021
Omni Houston Hotel
4 Riverway, Houston, TX 77056
www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston

Seeking Donations for the Congress Welcome Bag

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
We are in great need of items for the Congress Welcome Bags. We thank the communities who have already volunteered to donate pens, prayer cards and hand fans. In an effort to help generate ideas, the following are examples of items that would be helpful to have for the Welcome Bags:

*Saint drawings * Scapulars * Wrist rosaries *
Note pads * Prayer beads*

We will need about 420 of each item to fill the bags. *Please note we do not want heavy things that will weigh the tote bags down.* Gathering these items can be a group effort (from the same or multiple communities). A group of creative members can make something together or a group can work together to coordinate gathering the same item.

All donations will greatly be appreciated. May God reward you all for your help.

*Blessings,
Teresa DeMary, Welcome Bag Team Lead
Most Holy Trinity Community (Houston #4)*

Contact Teresa DeMary to donate items to the Congress Welcome Bags:
Teresa.demary@gmail.com

Please join me in thanking our Congress Planning Team for the generous gift of their time and talents!

- **Host Community, Venue Coordination, Marketing/ Publicity, & Liturgy Team B Lead** ~ The Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph (Houston #1)
- **Hospitality Team** ~ San Juan de la Cruz (Houston #2)
- **Vendor Room & Venue Search Team** ~ St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face Study Group (Houston #3)
- **Registration Welcome Bag Team** ~ Most Holy Trinity (Houston #4)
- **Adoration Room Team** ~ The Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus (Oklahoma City)
- **Congress Prayer Team** ~ St. Therese of the Little Flower (Lawrenceville, GA)
- **Program Team** ~ The Triumph of the Cross (Georgetown, TX)
- **Registration Team** ~ St. Joseph (St. Louis, MO)
- **Speaker Team A** ~ St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Austin, TX)
- **Financial Accountability Lead** ~ Kathy Rasmussen (Georgetown, TX)
- **Website Team Lead & Congress Co-Coordinator** ~ Michelle Estep (Austin, TX)

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.

Questions, Comments? Contact:
Laura Durant & Michelle Estep (2021 Congress Co-Coordinators)
512-699-6921
OCDSCongressCoordinator2021@gmail.com

Sharing Our Charism

Two OCDS Communities Come Together to Spread Carmelite Spirituality



OCDS Present: Reflections on Carmelite Spirituality and How It Can Help Me

By: Michelle Estep, OCDS

The central Texas Carmelite secular communities of The Triumph of the Cross of Georgetown, Texas and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross of Austin, Texas came together on Saturday, September 28, 2019 to host an event for the greater Austin area. The event titled *Reflections on Carmelite Spirituality and How It Can Help Me* featured a talk given by Father Gregory Ross, OCD, Director of Vocations for the Province of St. Therese.

Fr. Gregory's talk was divided into three parts with a focus on educating fellow Catholics on Carmelite spirituality and how it can bring value to one's personal life and to the life of the Church. Part one was titled: *Carmelite Spirituality: How Can it Affect My Life?* Part two was an overview of St. John of the Cross' journey through the Dark Night, and part three was called: *Carmelite Spirituality: What is its Value in the Life of the Church?*



Quotes

"Each order reflects one aspect of Christ our Lord - Carmelites reflect Jesus at prayer and love for his mother."

"Prayer is the Heart that pumps the Love of God to the entire Body of Christ."

"Whenever we pray, we pray as a member of the Body of Christ. When we pray, the Church prays."

- Father Gregory Ross, OCD

Ninety-two attendees packed Frizelle Hall at St. Helen's Catholic Church, thirty-four of whom were not Carmelite Seculars. "There were so many guests! That's one of the most I've ever seen at an event like this. Fr. Gregory's talk was also one of the best I have ever heard in a setting like this," said Hank Hurley of the OCDS Austin community.

The event began at 8:00 AM in the main sanctuary with both communities praying Morning Prayer from the Divine Office. Following Morning Prayer was a beautiful Mass presided by Fr. Gregory. After a morning of prayer, attendees gathered in the Hall for refreshments and to settle in for a day of reflection.

"Father Gregory gave everyone a better understanding of St. John of the Cross, even those who are Carmelites. The handouts of quotes from the Carmelite Saints were very helpful," said Birdie Ehrenfeld of the Georgetown community.

Fr. Gregory's closing remarks reminded attendees of the apostolic dimension of prayer. "The interior life is about the Church. Our Carmelite tradition can really help strengthen us. We may not go out to visibly save the world, but be faithful and leave room for the Lord as a praying member of the Church, for the sake of the Church and for the Lord."



News from around the Province—New Iberia Family Day

Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

Mary, Beloved of the Trinity community held their annual family day on October 26, 2019 at St. Theresa Hall in Loreauville. There was opportunity for visiting and lots of fun games for both the children and the adults.



News from around the Province—New Orleans Silent Retreat

Submitted by Sally Vlosich, OCDS



**Gulf Coast OCDS Silent Retreat
St Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center - October 18-20, 2019
OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR COMMUNITY
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Susan Weyer, John Vlosich, Nick Signorelli, Rosa Perkins, Gloria Gagliano, Grace Toyer
Sally Vlosich, Marie Spicuzza, Father Gregory Ross, OCD**

stv

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, the New Orleans, Louisiana community attended the October **2019 Gulf Coast Retreat**. The response of those attending suggested it was a wonderful success. The Retreat was held at St Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center, 75376 River Road in St Benedict, Louisiana.

We were all totally blessed by Father Gregory Ross, OCD, our retreat master.

Father Gregory chose the theme **“The Human Person Created in the Image and Likeness of God.”** – and examined this theme in the light of scripture, Vatican II and our Carmelite tradition.

I believe everyone left the Retreat having been thoroughly enlightened by who they really are, and we thank Father Gregory for this special message given to all of us.

Carmelite Obituaries



Janice Coleman, OCDS

Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel
Lafayette, LA

Submitted by Mary Dennis, OCDS

Janice Coleman of the Most Sorrowful Jesus, a founding member of the Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel in Lafayette, LA passed into eternity on April 11, 2018 at the age of 75. She was a longtime member of Carmel, having made her profession on July 16, 1978 in the Community of Mary Mother of Grace. Through the years she served both communities as Councilor and also as Historian, and enjoyed keeping the community scrapbook filled with pictures and mementos of special occasions. Janice also spent many years as Portress at the Monastery of Mary, Mother of Grace. She loved greeting visitors at the Monastery, taking prayer requests and offering advice and comfort. Many smiles and tears were shared, and prayers promised. She was preceded in death by her husband Frank and her “heart’s child” Ashley. She is survived by her four children, ten grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.



Nelda Tweedel, OCDS

Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel
Lafayette, LA

Submitted by Mary Dennis, OCDS

Nelda Tweedel of St. Therese of Mount Carmel, a founding member of the Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel in Lafayette, LA passed into eternity on October 16, 2019 at the age of 83. Nelda was a dedicated Carmelite who made her profession on November 20, 1994 in the Community of Mary, Mother of Grace. She served her community as council member, and was on the Congress Planning committee for 2011 the Lafayette Congress. She was known for her dedication to the Rosary, and was an active parishioner of St. Genevieve Catholic Church where she was a member of the Ladies Altar Society and their Rosary Group. We will miss her smile, her enthusiasm, and her love of Carmel. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Gervin and is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Carmelite Obituaries



Annie A. Cadena , OCDS

Our Mother of Mount Carmel and St. Therese
San Antonio, TX

March 7, 1941 - December 10, 2019
OCDS Profession: September 8, 2019
Name in Carmel: Annie of St. Anne

Annie Cadena, a member of the Discalced Carmelite Order, Community of Our Mother of Mount Carmel and St. Therese in San Antonio Texas, passed away December 10, 2019.



Annie was a woman of great and gentle strength, a compassionate heart: a courageous spirit, who cherished her family. She was an active member of the Little Flower Parish Community. She served in many positions both in her church and with the Little Flower School for over 55 years.

Annie loved her Carmelite family; she always had a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone she encountered. She was a true inspiration to all our community members by showing the love she had for the Church and Christ.

May God grant you eternal rest dear Annie.



Margareta Heider Svjaginstsev, OCDS

Community of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Austin TX

Margareta (Reta) was born in Germany between the two World Wars. After World War II, she met her husband, Jueri who was a refugee from Russia at the time. During 1946—1953, they both completed their medical degrees, and Reta earned an additional doctorate in Hematology. In 1953, the family immigrated to the USA, and in 1956, Jueri was drafted into the US Army Medical Corps. This resulted in many moves and with three children, Reta concentrated on family life and never pursued obtaining a doctor's license in the US. In 1970, the family settled permanently in Austin, TX. From 1972 through 1997, Reta served as a spiritual director in the Diocese of Austin. She also gave retreats and lectures around Texas and in other states.

In December 1978, Reta was definitively professed as a Secular Carmelite, taking the title of Margareta of Mary the Mother of God. She professed vows as a Secular Carmelite in November 1986. In the early to mid-1980s, she worked with a growing

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group of people in Austin who were interested in the Carmelite life. This group developed into the current OCDS community of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. In addition to this, Reta gave retreats at the Mt Carmel Center in Dallas and served for several years as one of the formation directors for isolates in the Province. In 1996, Reta withdrew from active participation in the local OCDS community, assuming a more retired state of life.

Margareta was preceded in death by her husband, Jueri Svjagintsev. She leaves behind her daughter Larissa and son-in-law Bob White; her son Jueri Svjagintsev and daughter-in-law Mara Eurich; her daughter, Tammy Svjagintsev; her grandchildren, Shannon Sandra and husband Igor; Yuri Andre Svjagintsev; and great-granddaughter, Sofia Sandra.



Margie Haro Perniciaro, OCDS (1925-2019)

Community of Our Lady of Prompt Succor

New Orleans, LA

By Sally Veronica Vlosich, OCDS

Margie Haro Perniciaro O.C.D S., 94, of Arabi, Louisiana, passed over into eternal life at 8:33 PM, on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at St. Bernard Parish Hospital, in Chalmette, Louisiana. She was surrounded by her loving family. She was born February 27, 1925, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Estelle Marie and Henry Haro. She married the late Peter Andrew Perniciaro, Sr. on October 10, 1942. They were married for 41 years and they were blessed with nine children, before he was taken from her life. She was a long-time resident of St. Bernard Parish. She is survived by seven of her nine children, Peter Perniciaro, Jr. DVM (Rebecca), Cindy Heier (Louis), Sandra Dempsey (Robert), Mark Perniciaro (the late Mary Ann Waguespack), Michael Perniciaro MD, Margie Palmeri (Mark), and Laurie Lassus (Gene). Preceding her in death were her two children, Kent and Paul Perniciaro. Margie had nine grandchildren, Jennifer, John (Lydia), Louis, Amanda, William, Katie, Andrew (Jessica), Matthew (Niki), Christian and Rachel. She was the proud great-grandmother of four, Leyla, Averi, Savannah, and Lucinda.

She was a member of the New Orleans Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Community. She was clothed on October 9, 1988 with the name in honor of Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. She professed her definitive promise January 29, 1994 and was admitted to ongoing formation. She was a member of the St. Theresa Circle, the Prince of Peace Altar Society and Adoration Chapel. She was also the proud recipient of the Order of St. Louis IX Medallion.

Visitation was held at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, 2320 Paris Road, in Chalmette, on Monday, October 14, 2019, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

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A funeral mass was held in her memory at 2:00 PM. The Discalced Carmelite Secular Order New Orleans, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Community was honored to recite the Rosary and Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary at this Mass for her. She was laid to rest in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate Masses said in Margie's name.



Roma Golden, OCDS

Community of Our Lady of Lourdes
Natchez-Videlia, MS

Please pray for Roma Golden of Our Lady of Lourdes OCDS Community (Natchez-Videlia, MS). She passed away November 13, 2019 at the age of 96. She was born August 1, 1923 in Delhi, Louisiana. Roma leaves behind five children, 20 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Roma made her profession on March 7, 1984. Her title of devotion in Carmel was St. Teresa of Avila. She also had a profound devotion to the Blessed Mother. Roma served faithfully on the Community Council. Roma's life was a true testament to the Carmelite way of life and an inspiring example to all of us.



Song of the soul that rejoices in knowing God through faith

ICS Publications, *Poetry*, No. 8

*For I know well the spring that flows and runs,
although it is night.*

1. That eternal spring is hidden,
for I know well where it has its rise,
although it is night.

2. I do not know its origin, nor has it one,
but I know that every origin has come from it,
although it is night.

3. I know that nothing else is so beautiful,
and that the heavens and the earth drink there,
although it is night.

4. I know well that it is bottomless
and no one is able to cross it,
although it is night.

5. Its clarity is never darkened,
and I know that every light has come from it,
although it is night.

6. I know that its streams are so brimming
they water the lands of hell, the heavens, and earth,
although it is night.

7. I know well the stream that flows from this spring
is mighty in compass and power,
although it is night.

8. I know the stream proceeding from these two,
that neither of them in fact precedes it,
although it is night.

9. This eternal spring is hidden
in this living bread for our life's sake,
although it is night.

10. It is here calling out to creatures;
and they satisfy their thirst, although in darkness,
because it is night.

11. This living spring that I long for,
I see in this bread of life,
although it is night.



Parting Words

Poetry of St. John of the Cross

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

5. For when once the will
is touched by God himself,
it cannot find contentment
except in the Divinity;
but since his Beauty is open
to faith alone, the will
*tastes him in I-don't-know-what
which is so gladly found.*

6. Tell me, then, would you pity
a person so in love,
who takes no delight
in all creation;
alone, mind empty of form and figure,
finding no support or foothold,
*he tastes there I-don't-know-what
which is so gladly found.*

7. Do not think that he who lives
the so-precious inner life
finds joy and gladness
in the sweetness of the earth;
but there beyond all beauty

and what is and will be and was,
he tastes I-don't-know-what
which is so gladly found.

8. Whoever seeks to advance
takes much more care
in what he has yet to gain
than in what he has already gained;
and so I will always tend
toward greater heights;
*beyond all things, to I-don't-know-what
which is so gladly found.*

9. I will never lose myself
for that which the senses
can take in here,
nor for all the mind can hold,
no matter how lofty,
nor for grace or beauty,
*but only for I-don't-know-what
which is so gladly found.*

ICS Publications, Poetry, Ch. 12

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 2021-2023 Triennium:

Barbara A. Basgall, Oklahoma City, OK

Mark Calvert, Knoxville, TN

Maxinne Latiolais, New Iberia, LA

Anna Peterson, San Antonio, TX

Jillison Parks, Savannah, GA