

## OCDS Apostolate

### Constitutions

Art. 25-28 [Read section for entirety of Articles]

**“25....The spirituality of Carmel will awaken in Secular Carmelites a desire for greater apostolic commitment, in becoming aware of all that their call to Carmel implies...by means of active participation in the apostolic goal of the Church’s mission, within the framework of their own charism...**

**26. The vocation...is truly ecclesial. Prayer and apostolate...are inseparable...apostolic activity is the fruit of prayer...**

**27...each one will have an apostolate either collaborating with others in the community or individually.**

**28...they will bring the wealth of their spirituality in the various forms it takes in evangelization: missions, parishes, houses of prayer, Spirituality Institutes, prayer groups, the ministry of spirituality...”**

### 2016 Statutes

Section III: Apostolate [read section for entire Statute]

- 1) Apostolate is a duty and requirement of each baptized and confirmed person...Carmelite Seculars demonstrate how it is possible to seek intimate union with God even in the midst of worldly duties and concerns...they share in the prophetic mission of Christ...
- 2) ...priority is given to...family, one’s profession or work, one’s parish...each OCDS canonical community shall have an apostolic commitment...
- 3) The primary...apostolate is to share Carmelite spirituality with others.
- 4) ...the community needs to be sensitive to the...capabilities of the members...
- 5) Local Councils should review any rules governing apostolic activities in their diocese...

### Community Apostolates

**The primary apostolate** of an OCDS Community is to share Carmelite Spirituality. In the most ideal situation, the apostolate includes personal contact and interaction with the local church, either on the parochial or diocesan level.

A community may also have a secondary apostolate of serving the poor or the needs of the local Church.

While the exclusive “apostolate of prayer” is appropriate for members of cloistered orders, a Carmelite secular must not fall into the temptation that “contemplation” is “better.” Our Holy Mother argued for a view of the world and the Church that combined “Martha and the Mary.” “Obras quiere el Señor” – “It is works that the Lord desires.” It is the mission of the secular to evangelize the world, and the mission of the OCDS to evangelize through instruction and

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sharing of our spirituality as entrusted to us by our Holy Parents, Saints Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

All members are to contribute in some way, according to their capacity, to the ecclesial apostolate of the Community.

**Examples**

- Members can give talks on Carmelite spirituality and Carmelite saints to local parishes or community groups. Members who are not speaking may participate by publicizing the event, writing, or editing the talk, attending the talk, providing hospitality at the talk, praying for the success of the talk.
- The Community can organize special Masses to be said (perhaps by their Spiritual Assistant) at times near Carmelite holy days. Members personally invite individual members of the public to attend so that their intentions may be prayed for at the Mass. As many Community members as are available should attend.
- The Community can invite members of various local parishes to attend the Community's annual retreat or day of recollection, as space is available.
- The Community can invite a Carmelite friar to present a talk or talks to the public on Carmelite spirituality. Members may participate by publicizing the event, attending the talk, providing hospitality at the talk, praying for the success of the talk, etc.

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