

Public Use of the Ceremonial Scapular

2016 Statutes section VI.3

“In addition to regular OCDS meetings, the ceremonial scapular may be worn when participating as a group at gatherings and events approved by the local Council. The ceremonial scapular is not worn publicly by OCDS members at other times, nor in an individual capacity.”

- Normally, these “gatherings and events” would be Church-sponsored functions and liturgical celebrations in which the Carmelite community has been invited to participate.
- “Participating as a group” means that the community has been invited as a community, and as many members attend as are able.
- “Participating as a group” may also mean that the local Council is sending two or more members to represent the OCDS Community.

Other considerations

The local Council has the authority to allow or request members to wear the ceremonial scapular to an event where the Council believes a visible OCDS presence would be appropriate and useful.

Councils requesting that members wear the ceremonial scapular to a public event should have a serious and specific reason for doing so.

Examples:

- Wearing the ceremonial scapular at a parish Mass should be limited to attending as a community on a Carmelite feast day or regular meeting day.
- It is expected that members will wear the ceremonial scapular to the wake and funeral or memorial Mass of a deceased member.
- It is common to wear the ceremonial scapular to the community Christmas gathering, if this is held during the time of the regular monthly meeting or if it is a celebration shared with other communities, which makes it an OCDS event.
- It is **not** usual to wear the ceremonial scapular to a Mass offered for the community's deceased members unless the members intend to sit together.
- It is **not** usual to wear the ceremonial scapular at “fellowship” activities, especially if attendance is not required (movie nights, picnics, potlucks, outings).

This statement supersedes all previous statements on OCDS Public Use of the Large Ceremonial Scapular.
The online document is the only one to be considered official.

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Members may not simply decide on their own to wear the ceremonial scapular, whether attending an event together or as an individual. This would be against the Promise of Obedience.

The only situation when an individual OCDS member would wear the ceremonial scapular in public is if the superiors (local or provincial) ask to send a member to **represent the community, the Province, or the Order** at a function.