

Use of Titles of Devotion

Communities are to use members' legal names in all community documents and records, including rosters, attendance and financial records, meeting minutes, and reports.

Members are not to be given the title Sister or Brother with their name in community documents as if this were part of their official title (e.g., Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection). It is not appropriate to use titles of devotion in any sort of official way, such as taking attendance or introducing a member as a speaker. Though the terms brother or sister may be used as an informal term of affection within the community, i.e., as a brother or sister in Christ or in Carmel.

The Secular Order members **may, if they choose**, use a title of devotion after their name. This parallels the practice found among the religious of our Order who choose a title to reflect that they are now a new person who has undertaken a new mission, just as Teresa de Ahumada becomes Teresa de Jesús (Teresa of Jesus) and Juan de Yepes becomes Juan de la Cruz (John of the Cross).

As stated in the **2016 Statutes, Section 1.5**, OCDS members' legal names are retained when choosing a Title of Devotion. **Members are not required to take a title** but are free to take a **simple** title of devotion when making First Promise. It is not to be understood as or referred to as a name in religion but simply what it is, a reference to a particular Church-approved devotion that the member may have and aspire to imitate. The member should resist the temptation of multiple titles of devotion.

A Church-approved devotion may be one of the many approved titles of Our Lady (e.g., of the Immaculate Heart); that of Our Lord (e.g., of the Sacred Heart) or of an acknowledged Saint of the Church (e.g., of St. Therese); or some other approved devotion (e.g., of the Cross, of the Trinity). It is something that the member should genuinely pray about and discern with the Director of Formation who shares it with the Local Council.

This statement supersedes all previous statements on OCDS Titles of Devotion.

The online document is the only one to be considered official.

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