



OCDS PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph

From our Provincial Delegate, Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

The month of September is another of God's many gifts to us. After the summer, we're glad to settle down again in life. We're more appreciative of our Carmelite calling. With God's inspiration, we want to live it more fully.

This is certainly a time of renewal for me. On August 26, I moved from San Jose to El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, California. With me in this community are Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales (superior), Fr. Raymond Bueno, and Bro. Jason Parrott. They have welcomed me very well, and I'm happily settling in, thanks be to God. Thank you for your prayers!

As we announced in our last Newsletter (see www.ocds.info), the OCDS Central Office will remain in San Jose. Please send all roster updates to Emma Forlanda, OCDS there:

OCDS Central Office

P. O. Box 3079

San Jose, CA 95156

Emma's OCDS cell phone: (408) 332-4707

Emma's OCDS email: ocds.secretary@gmail.com

Please send all my personal mail, documents needing my signature, dues and other checks to me at:

El Carmelo Retreat House

P. O. Box 8067

Redlands, CA 92375

my cell phone: (408) 772-2936

The previous OCDS land line, (408) 259-7786, has been discontinued.

Please contact Emma or me if we can help you in any way. As always we ask Presidents and Group Leaders to please make a copy of this "Newsletter" for each of your members—and for your extended members as well.

Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD



**St. Teresa
500th
Celebration**

**The St. Teresa
500th**

Celebration August 21-23 in San Jose was a resounding success with outstanding participation from the Carmelite family and many others who admire St. Teresa. The three-day program focused on the many ways in which her creative spiritual genius finds expression today. Among the highlights of those days were two “virtual choirs” with Carmelites participating from around the world: the first is Carmelite nuns singing “Nada te turbe” (“Let nothing disturb you”), and the other is Carmelite nuns, friars, and seculars singing the “Salve Regina.” Both compositions were written for this event by Sister Claire Sokol, OCD of the Reno Carmel. (Many of us already know Sr. Claire as the composer of “The Canticle of Love.”) These two virtual choirs are now getting amazing publicity and are “resounding” throughout the world. You really should experience this! See the website www.stj500westernus.com. Video footage of each of the presentations will soon be available on YouTube.

Atlanta OCDS Congress

The Atlanta OCDS Congress, sponsored by the Oklahoma Province, took place August 21-24, almost at the same time as the St. Teresa Celebration.

Thirteen Carmelites from our Province attended, including five members of our OCDS Provincial Council (Erin Foord, Lucy Okoh, Cheri Kluever, Lee Ann Trunk) and myself. At the Atlanta Congress, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, OCDS General Delegate, gave an outstanding presentation on “New Sections in the OCDS Constitutions on Community Life and St. Joseph.” In it, he made a powerful comparison between these new sections of the Constitutions and Pope Francis’ *Evangelii Gaudium*. I highly recommend this conference for discussion in all communities. It is now on our website www.ocds.info.



Our Province's next

Western Regional OCDS Congress

“Do you know the way to San Jose?”

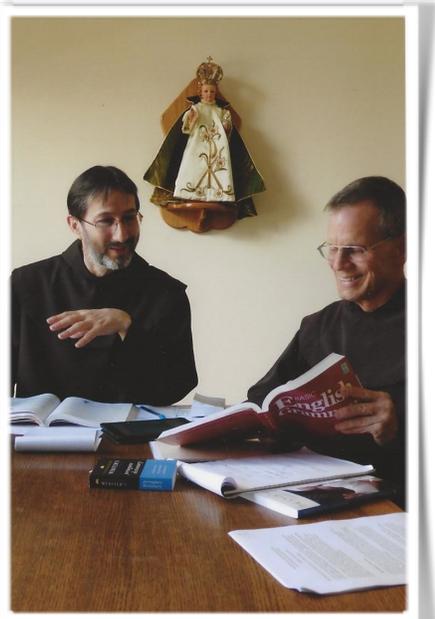
At the closing banquet of each Congress, it is a tradition to promote the next Congresses with a song. In Atlanta, all thirteen of us from the California-Arizona Province sang a funny chorus of “Do you know the way to San Jose?”, much to the amusement of everyone! This was our way of officially announcing the next Western Regional OCDS Congress, to be held in **San Jose, June 23-26, 2016 at the DoubleTree Hotel**. The Co-Chairpersons for this Congress are Emma Forlanda, OCDS and Yolanda Rossy, OCDS. The wonderful San Jose OCDS Community will be the hosts.

We have scheduled a congress planning meeting for October 30 to decide on a theme and speakers. A congress is *the* major event in the life of the Secular Order. It’s a family reunion beyond compare. After October 30, we will begin sending out our “Congress Chronicles” so that *everyone* will “know the way to San Jose!” Thank you for your prayers for our 2016 Congress!

The 2015 Congress will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. See website www.2015ocdsnationalcongress.com.

Fr. Alzinir in San Jose

Before the Atlanta OCDS Congress, Fr. Alzinir spent a month learning English with the Carmelite friars in San Jose, with the permission and encouragement of our Father General. Four of us gave him classes: Bro. James and I in grammar and Fr. James and Fr. Robert in conversation. A high point of Fr. Alzinir's stay with us was his first Mass in English, which he practiced for weeks.



Fr. Alzinir and Fr. Donald in class

During this time in San Jose, Fr. Alzinir enjoyed meeting some OCDS members, who were inspired by his goodness and simplicity. At his own request, he did not travel much so that he could concentrate his time studying English. Hopefully he will come back to our Province to practice his English in the years ahead.

International Teresian Meeting

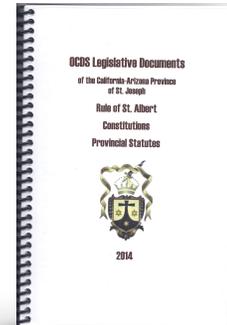
Very recently we received word from Rome that an international gathering to honor St. Teresa's 500th anniversary of birth will be held in Avila, Spain August 10-14, 2015. The whole Teresian family is invited: religious and laity from all the regions of the Order, as well as congregations and affiliated movements founded in the spirituality of St. Teresa. More than 2,000 people are expected to attend. This event will be preceded by a Teresian Youth Meeting August 5-11. Participants will be able to visit important Teresian sites, and there will be reflections, prayer, celebrations, and sharing in Spanish, Italian, English, French, Portuguese, and Polish. The cost will be from € 150 to € 355, "depending on one's country of origin, the type of accommodation chosen, and other aspects which are still being planned." Anyone wishing to attend should contact Fr. Donald for pre-registration before October 31, although this date is flexible. More than enough places have been allotted to our Province. For more information, please see www.avila2015.com.

The first of our Province's two OCDS Spain Pilgrimages, sponsored by our OCDS Provincial Council, is taking place this September 11-25, with Fr. Robert Barcelos and Fr. David Guzmán as chaplains. Fifty-one people from all around the Province will be participating. Please keep them in your prayers.



Legislative Booklets

In our July Newsletter, we announced the release of our new Legislative Booklets, containing the Rule of St. Albert, the revised OCDS Constitutions, and the revised Provincial Statutes. Some communities and groups have ordered copies, but we are waiting to hear from everyone. This format is handy to bring to meetings and for use at home. It is also good to give to candidates during the Rite of Admission when they receive the scapular. This is something each community and group needs to take advantage of. Remember: only the January 2014 OCDS Constitutions and the December 2013 "Provincial Statutes" are now valid. The cost of these booklets is \$5.00 each, including postage. Please see the July Newsletter (see www.ocds.info), for more information and for the order form. Send your order to Fr. Donald in Redlands. At this time we are only accepting multiple orders, not individual orders.



Important Letter from Emma Forlanda

Emma Forlanda has written a letter to all our local presidents, group leaders and designated contacts on our website (www.ocds.info). Its purpose is to explain how they can help her to better organize our record keeping for the Central Office. Please return your roster to Emma in this new format by September 30, 2014.

Vocation Milestones

The Lord is certainly answering our prayers for vocations! Fr. Leonel Varela, OCD was ordained a priest on July 26 in Yucaipa, California. Bro. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD made his



Fr. Leonel Varela, OCD after his Ordination

Solemn Profession of Vows in Mt. Angel on September 1. Bro. James Lindsay, OCD; Bro. Joseph Mary Tran, OCD; and Bro. Juan Torres, OCD made their First Profession of Vows in San Jose on September 8. Bro. Peter Mary and Bro. Charles Nawodylo, OCD will be ordained deacons on October 11 at Mount Angel Abbey. We thank you for your prayers for all our brothers in formation!



Bro. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD



Bro. Juan Torres, OCD; Bro. James Lindsay, OCD;
Bro. Joseph Mary Tran, OCD

Next OCDS Provincial Council meeting

Our first OCDS Provincial Council meeting of this new triennium will take place October 31-November 2 in San Jose. If you have items for the agenda, please contact me or one of our OCDS Provincial Councilors:

Erin Foord, OCDS; erin.foord@baesystems.com; 408-482-6659

Lucy Okoh, OCDS; lucianneokoh@yahoo.com; 303-806-9923

Cheri Kluever, OCDS; ckshurtlef@aol.com; 707-252-8750

Lee Ann Trunk, OCDS; leeann.trunk@comcast.net; 360-903-7656

Amy Holmes, OCDS; aholmesocds@yahoo.com; 626-338-8285

August 24 Earthquake in Oakville



Conference Room

On August 24 at 3:20 a.m. the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville was severely damaged by the 6.0 earthquake in Napa, twelve miles away. The original house



Outside of the building

was built as a private home in 1921 and was bought by the Phelan-Sullivan family in 1955 for the Carmelite friars' novitiate. In 1981, it became a House of Prayer. Over the years, many Secular Order Carmelites, as communities and



Fallen section above the Mass Oratory

individuals, have made retreats in this majestic setting. Two OCDS communities, Mary Mother of the Church and the Divine Infant Jesus, meet monthly at the House of Prayer. The Uganda Mission Office is also located there.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel statue in chapel, safely rescued the next day

The House of Prayer needs much prayer and financial support to repair the earthquake damage. If any of you would like to send a donation, as communities or as individuals, please contact:

Fr. Gerald Werner, OCDS
 Carmelite House of Prayer
 P. O. Box 347
 Oakville, CA 94562

We ask your prayers for Gerri Drury, OCDS, one of the members of the Oakville Mary, Mother of the Church OCDS Community. It is Gerri who has designed the beautiful lay-outs for our "OCDS Provincial Newsletters" and "Congress Chronicles" these last few years, as she did for the *Carmelite Digest* before that. On September 5 Gerri had a bad fall and suffered serious head and neck injuries. We pray she will recover soon. In the meantime, we're grateful to the kind person who put together this issue of our "Newsletter" on short notice.