



OCDS Provincial Newsletter

California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph – October 2023
Introducing Provincial Council Representatives

“Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing affright you. All things are passing; God does not change. Patience achieves all things. Whoever has God wants for nothing. God alone suffices.” (St. Teresa;s Bookmark)

OCDS Provincial Council Representatives

We are happy to announce the selection of the OCDS Provincial Council Representatives for the current triennium ending in May 2026. Please keep our soon-to-be-announced Provincial Delegate and the Provincial Council in your prayers as they seek to serve our members with the help of the Holy Spirit. A special thanks to the outgoing Provincial Councilor, Lynn Miyake, OCDS, for her generous service to our province.

Provincial Delegate

To Be Announced.

Mountain Region Representative (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY)



Jim Dowd, OCDS, President

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Jim is the OCDS Provincial Council representative assisting and serving our groups and communities for the Mountain Region. He has been on the Council for the last two trienniums, and had been asked by Fr. Matthew Williams, our Provincial Superior, to remain as president of the Council for the next three years. Jim first encountered Carmel during a university class many years ago in a philosophy course introducing the works of both St. Teresa and St. John of the cross. He had no idea at the time that God was leading him into the Catholic faith and a deepening call toward Carmelite spirituality. Jim and his wife, who is also definitively professed, live in Southwest Utah, are parishioners of Christ the King Catholic Church in Cedar City, and members of *Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Mt. Carmel OCDS Group*.

Southwest Region Representative (AZ, NM, NV)



Jean Brown, OCDS

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Jean is a convert to the Catholic Church and is originally from Alabama. She was Definitively professed in May 2015, and has served her community in Phoenix, AZ, as a Formator, Councilor, Council Secretary, and as the Formation Director. Her community and the opportunities that she has been given to serve are continually transforming her into a better, Human, Christian, and Carmelite. For this she is eternally grateful. She is a clinical professor in the department of speech and hearing services at Arizona State University where she has taught a myriad of classes and has mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Jean holds a master's degree in speech language pathology and social work and a doctorate in public administration. At St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Mesa, AZ she serves as minister of care, co-teaches the Called and Gifted Class, and facilitates the prayer shawl ministry entitled: A Stitch and a Prayer. She enjoys hiking, photography, reading, gardening, and travel.

Southern California Region Representative



Ginny Morton, OCDS

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Ginny is an active member of *Marie Matre et Regina Carmeli* in Bakersfield, CA for over 20 years. She is a retired middle school teacher, a mom of 2 adult daughters, and 4 active grandchildren. Ginny has served as a Councilor, Formation Director, and formator for her community since her Definitive Promise. She considers St. Teresa of Avila her personal spiritual advisor and turns to her often in all aspects of her life. Silence is Ginny's favorite sound.

Northern California Region Representative



Paula Murphy, OCDS, Secretary

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Paula is a member of the *Holy Family Community* in Auburn, CA. Her call to Carmel came after several years of reading and applying the teachings of St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Therese of Lisieux to her life. Paula had the privilege to travel to the Holy Land where she was blessed to attend Mass at the cave of Elijah on Mt. Carmel. She also visited the convents of St. Teresa of Avila and was able to tour the home of St. Therese of Lisieux and attended Mass in the chapel of her Carmelite monastery. In looking back, she can clearly see that it was our Lady of Mt. Carmel who was nurturing and fostering her call. Over the past several years Paula has served her community as Community Secretary, Retreat Coordinator, Director of Formation, Formator, and Infirmarian. Paula and her husband Mark have been married for 36 years, and their children and grandchildren are the center of their lives. Paula is thrilled and honored to be able to serve a second term as the Northern California Representative.

Northwest Region Representative (AK, HI, OR, WA)



Pam Gockel, OCDS, Newsletter Editor

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Pam converted to the Catholic faith and was confirmed in 1992. She is an active member of St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church in Woodinville, WA. She and her husband William are active in serving their parish community. They have 2 adult children and 6 grandchildren. Pam is a member of the *St. Joseph OCDS Community* and is currently serving her second term as president and has also served as Councilor, Formation Director Assistant, Formator, Treasurer, and Cantor. Pam is currently in the second year of the diploma path in the Carmelite Spiritual Direction Programme from the Center for Applied Carmelite Spirituality, UK. She is ever pursuing a deeper Carmelite spirituality and looks to St. Teresa as her inspiration and guide.

Responsibilities of the Provincial Council

Statutes, Sec. XXVII: O.C.D.S. Provincial Council

6. The primary responsibility of the Provincial Council is to:

- a) assist in formation and the apostolate, [cf. *Const.* #57].
- b) serve as an advisory body to the Provincial Superior, via the Provincial Delegate,
- c) advise and assist the Provincial Delegate on the Central Office administration and finances.

7. Members of the provincial Council shall make Fraternal Visits to Communities, Groups and Study Groups. A Provincial Councilor, while making a visit, comes as a representative of the Provincial Council with the same rights and privileges of that office. He/she respects the autonomy of the local Council's authority.

May 2024 Leadership Conference

Mark Your Calendars: The next triennial OCDS Leadership Conference will be held from Tuesday, May 14, 2024, to Friday, May 17, 2024, at El Carmelo Retreat House, 926 E. Highland Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373.

Preference should be given to new President/Group Leaders, followed by new Formation Directors or other new Council Members.

Information on the program, cost, and registration will follow in the near future.



Pictured (left to right): Donna Dostalick (Council member), Ginny Morton (Southern California OCDS Regional Representative), Steve Gross (Formation Director), Jim Dowd (Provincial Council President), Nina Visconti (Group Leader), and Debbie Vallas (Council Member).

On the weekend of September 16th and 17th, Ginny Morton, the Southern California OCDS Regional Representative, and Jim Dowd, Provincial Council President, were invited to visit the Orange County OCDS Group. Their meeting was held at *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church* in Newport Beach, CA. Both Ginny and Jim wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to the Orange County OCDS Group, its council, and all its members, for their warm hospitality and Carmelite welcome.

Please remember and pray for our OCDS members who have died within the last year:

Candace Tapert OCDS

Stanwood, WA

Mary Ann Wolfe, OCDS

Stanwood, WA

Lawrence (Larry) Carter, OCDS

Covina, CA

Chester Krajewski, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Ralyn Baird, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Janina Zielinski, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Wanda O'Brien, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Mary Ann Boley, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Barbara Bussman, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Hank Bussman, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Catherine Johnston, OCDS

Seattle, WA

Elisa Castellano, OCDS

Sierra Vista, AZ

If you want to include an OCDS member who has died within the last 12 months in future newsletters, please email the name, city, and state to Pam Gockel at pgockel20@gmail.com. The names listed in our newsletters do not necessarily represent all of the members who have passed away in the last year. This list is for remembrance and prayers only, not for official notification.

Please remember to submit an official record on Form D to our OCDS Central Office for each member that has passed away in your community or group. Go to ocds.info/forms.htm for more information.