

El Carmelo Retreat House
P. O. Box 8067
Redlands, California 92375

September 18, 2014

Dear OCDS Brothers and Sisters throughout our Province,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

This morning I received a letter from Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, our OCDS General Delegate, sent to all the OCDS members in the world. In this letter, he asks for your collaboration for the Friars' General Chapter to be held in Avila in May of 2015.

Quoting from the Friars' Constitutions, "The General Chapter, the highest authority within the Order, is to be held every six years...to promote the life, unity and growth of the Order and to ensure that all the brethren work together of its unceasing renewal" (Sec. 167 & 170). The General Chapter is attended by the Superior General and his Definitors (Councilors), the Provincial and one Friar-delegate from every Province in the Order, and other delegates. At the Chapter, the Superior General and Definitors are elected, or re-elected. Many important matters are discussed and decided.

It is an honor and a responsibility to be asked to help collaborate in the planning of the General Chapter. For this reason, I ask every community and group to make this task a high priority: First, please make a copy of Fr. Alzinir's letter for all your members, including your extended members. Then discuss the letter in community, and give answers to his questions. Next your community/group council should summarize the responses "clearly and distinctly", as Fr. Alzinir says. He also requests that your responses be sent to our OCDS Provincial Council by November 30, 2014. This means that you will need to talk about this at your October or November meeting so that your responses can be sent to us on time. We cannot consider responses sent in after November 30, since we have to prepare a synthesis to send to Rome by January 15.

Because our OCDS Provincial Council is not meeting until October 31 to elect a new President and Secretary, please send your responses to me, until further notice. My email is: frdonaldocd@gmail.com. My mailing address is on the letterhead above.

I should bring to your attention that there is one word in Fr. Alzinir's letter that is not translated accurately: On page 2, his question 2 should read, "How would you *assess* the formation you received in your Community?", rather than "How would you *access* the formation you received..."

At the end of Fr. Alzinir's letter, he also refers to the world-wide gathering of Carmelites in Avila August 10-14, 2015 for the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Teresa. I wrote about this event in last week's "OCDS Provincial Newsletter". (See www.ocds.info/newsletters.) For more information, please visit the website www.avila2015.com. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

It is exciting that we all have the opportunity to share in our next General Chapter through our responses to Fr. Alzinir's questions. Much more directly, your responses will be very helpful to our own OCDS Provincial Council so that we can know better what you think about the Secular Order, your formation, and life in your Community and Province.

On behalf of our OCDS Provincial Council, thank you and bless you!

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with St. Teresa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Donald Kinney, O.C.D." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD
Provincial Delegate