



Office of the Provincial Superior
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph

May 21, 2026

Dear Carmelite Secular brothers and sisters of the California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Greetings from the 2026 Provincial Chapter, assembled May 12-21, 2026 at our El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, California.

You are a vital part of our Order and Province, and so we want you to know that you have been present with us in thought and prayer during these sacred days. We know that our planning and execution of the next three years very much affects our Nuns and our Seculars. So, we have kept you in mind during our conversation and decision making.

Although our Triennial Provincial Chapter has a component of business, the primary intent is to improve the living and faithfulness of our life and ministry. We began the Chapter with a morning of prayer and moved on to the election of our Provincial Superior. Fr. Matthew Williams was re-elected for a second term. Many of you know Fr. Matthew well, because he served as your Provincial Delegate for two terms (2017-2023). For this reason, we know that Fr. Matthew has the best interest of our Carmelite Seculars in mind. Please keep him in your prayer!

The final document of the 2021 General Chapter of our Order, "Being Discalced Carmelite Friars Today", has been a primary source for our prayer and study these last few years. As requested by our Fr. General, Miguel Calle, we have been asked to apply this document in our planning for the future. Our primary focus has been on the essential elements of our charism: prayer, fraternity, mission, and the unity of the three, as outlined in the document. In addition to several other decisions and resolutions, we have also approved the formation of a Young Adult Ministry Office for our Province. This is meant to supply the growing interest in our Church and in Carmelite Spirituality. We hope that this will also assist in Vocation promotion for our Friars, Nuns and Seculars, as well as promoting the recently formed Scapular Confraternity.

"Being Discalced Carmelite Friars Today" says, "The apostolic commitment in its multiple forms (prayer, witness, preaching, spiritual direction, teaching, publications) is addressed first of all to the friars, the nuns, and the laity of the Order....our family can more effectively express its witness and carry out its apostolate through the active collaboration of the members of the three branches, each according to its own form of life." We know the validity and value of this statement. Please know that we appreciate your presence in our life as brothers and sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and we

look forward to greater collaboration and support in the living out of our mutual lives and in the spreading of Carmelite Spirituality – bringing souls to Jesus!

In closing, we would be remiss in not thanking you for your continuing prayers and financial support for all our communities, particularly for our House of Studies and Novitiate in Mount Angel and for our Mission in Uganda. Please God, as of July 16, 2026 we will have 6 Junior Professed Friars and two novices, along with a possible five or six men entering our Province in September. We also now have 24 Friars in Uganda with more applying to enter. The future is hopeful, and we thank God for this new generation of friars who will help us work more closely with you to build up the Carmelite family and the Church.

All of you have been very much in our thoughts and prayers these days, and we are deeply grateful for your prayers for us. May God bless you all.

In Jesus and Mary,

your Discalced Carmelite Fathers and Brothers of the 2026 Provincial Chapter

