

# OCDS NEWSLETTER



California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph



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## Message From Fr. Donald Kinney, Provincial Delegate

Dear OCDS Brothers and Sisters,

**Praised be Jesus Christ!**

With our Holy Fr. Pope Benedict's resignation and the upcoming election of a new Pope, these are historic days for the Church and the world. St. Teresa of Jesus always emphasized the compelling need for us Carmelites to pray for the leaders of our Church. She even wrote that prayer for the leaders of the Church is help for the Lord himself (*Way of Perfection*, 1, 2). St. Thérèse, at the end of *Story of a Soul* (p. 253), lifts up this same ideal: "I want to be a daughter of the Church as our holy Mother St. Teresa was and to pray for the Holy Father's intentions which I know embrace the whole universe. This is the general purpose of my life..." (pp. 253-4). In our Carmelite family, we strive to follow their teaching. We enthusiastically join together in thanksgiving for Pope Benedict and to pray that God will send us just the right Pope to guide our Church in the years ahead.

Our Superior General, Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, has written a lovely letter of thanks to Pope Benedict, which you can read at the Order's website at [www.carmelitaniscalzi.com](http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com).

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) has issued several pages of prayers and resource materials for use upon the resignation of Pope Benedict and for the election of a new Pope, including two of the following prayers.

### *Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI:*

O God, true Shepherd of the faithful,  
look with kindness on your servant Pope Benedict XVI,  
whom you set as head and shepherd of Your Church.  
We give you thanks for your grace at work in him  
as he has led us by word and example:  
in his teaching, in his prayer and in his great love.  
Grant him your strength in frailty, comfort in sorrow,  
and serenity amid the trials of this world;  
and guide your Church, built on the rock of Peter,  
with the power of your Spirit  
as we continue on the path that leads to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### *Prayer for the election of a new Pope:*

O God, eternal Shepherd, who governs your flock with unflinching care,  
grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church  
who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.



## Mount Carmel OCDS Renewal Course

In April 2012, I announced to the Province that the General Definitory of our Order is sponsoring a Renewal Course for English-speaking OCDS members from throughout the world. The place is the historic Stella Maris Carmelite Monastery on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. The dates are March 3-17, 2013. The response was immediate: Many of you expressed an interest in going. I sent in applications to Rome in the order I received them. I had to put other names on a waiting list. Fifteen members of our Province have been accepted, the largest contingent of any province in the world:

Joan Coulombe (Eugene, OR)

Emma Forlanda (San Jose, CA)

Rebecca Lambert (Portland, OR)

Mary Frances Harrison (Colorado Springs, CO)

Patrick Harrison (Colorado Springs, CO)

Angie Paras (Santa Clara, CA)

Annabelle Santa Ana (Redlands, CA)

Margaret Shore (Modesto, CA)

Aida Sibal (Santa Clara, CA)

Cindy Sliger (St. Joseph, Seattle, WA)

Althea Stressino (Alhambra, CA)

Theresa Thomas (Berkeley, CA)

Mary Wells (Gilroy, CA)

Sunny Whilldin (Grand Junction, CO)

Jesusa Yap (San Jose, CA, now living in Germany)

During this course, there will be conferences on Scripture and Carmelite spirituality by specialists, with pilgrimages to the major holy sites in Israel. I have asked our fifteen representatives to write a short account of their time together on Mount Carmel for a future edition of this "OCDS Provincial Newsletter." Please pray for these fine members from our Province that this course will truly be a time of grace for them and for us. Hopefully this OCDS Renewal Course on Mount Carmel will be offered again in the years to come.



The picture on the left is of Fr. Donald with four of our OCDS pilgrims/participants who will travel to Mount Carmel. Standing to the left of Father are Mary Wells (Gilroy), Emma Forlanda (San Jose, and our Central Office secretary), Aida Sibal (Santa Clara), and Angie Paras (Santa Clara).

## New OCDS Provincial Councilor

After Christmas, I learned with much regret that *Thelma Prisco* of the Boise, Idaho Group, had to resign from our OCDS Provincial Council for health reasons. We thank Thelma for her wonderful service to our Province, and we will certainly miss her!

To appoint a new OCDS provincial councilor, the remaining members of the Provincial Council followed Section XXVI of our "Provincial Statutes." We carefully studied the lists of nominees for the Provincial Council submitted by communities and groups throughout the Province in 2009 and 2011, as well as other names that we ourselves included. After much prayer and consultation, we are happy to announce that the new member of our Province's OCDS Provincial Council is *Cheri Kluever*, from Napa, California. Cheri is now in her second term as president of the Oakville Community.

Here is the current listing of our OCDS Provincial Council with e-mail addresses and phone numbers:

Cindy Sliger, president (Seattle, WA)	<a href="mailto:csliger@comcast.net">csliger@comcast.net</a>	(425) 391-3756
Rebecca Lambert, secretary (Portland, OR)	<a href="mailto:lambertrebecca@hotmail.com">lambertrebecca@hotmail.com</a>	(503) 730-3973
Erin Foord (Santa Clara, CA)	<a href="mailto:erin.foord@baesystems.com">erin.foord@baesystems.com</a>	(408) 482-6659
Lucy Okoh (Denver, CO)	<a href="mailto:lucianneokoh@yahoo.com">lucianneokoh@yahoo.com</a>	(303) 806-9923
Cheri Kluever (Napa, CA)	<a href="mailto:ckshurtlef@aol.com">ckshurtlef@aol.com</a>	(707) 252-8750
Fr. Donald Kinney (San Jose)	<a href="mailto:donaldkinneyocd@gmail.com">donaldkinneyocd@gmail.com</a>	(408) 259-7786

This is a good time to thank past members of the OCDS Provincial Council who have served us so well since 2003:

Chris Hart (Eugene, OR)  
 Thomas Moore (Coeur d'Alene, ID)  
 Doreen Glynn Pawski (Cristo Rey, San Francisco, CA)  
 Suzanne Williams (Albuquerque, NM)  
 Virginia Black (Cheyenne, WY)  
 Ann Seargeant (Albuquerque, NM)

Cheri Kluever will be joining us for her first meeting of the Provincial Council when we meet April 26-28 in San Jose. If any of you has an item for the agenda of that meeting, please let one of us know.

After this April 26-28 meeting, we will be returning the Attendance and Visitors Policies that communities and groups from around the Province sent to us for our approval. We will also be finalizing our synthesis of your suggestions to Fr. Alzinir Debastiani's revisions to the OCDS Constitutions. Thanks to all of you who have responded to these requests.

### Annual Dues

We are grateful to those communities and groups who have already sent in their annual dues of \$25. A person begins paying dues when he/she receives the scapular and becomes a member of the community. Normally, dues should be sent to the Central Office in February. (See Section XXII of our "Provincial Statutes.")

Each community and group should send in annual dues, which help support the expenses of the Central Office, the travel of the Provincial Delegate, and the travel of the OCDS Provincial Council. From the dues of the Province, we also send an annual donation to the General Delegate's office in Rome. Fr. Alzinir Debastiani has already written to express his appreciation for our Province's donation for 2012.

In these hard financial times, it may happen that a member cannot afford to pay the full \$25 annual dues. Your treasurer does not need to send us a list of who has and has not paid. This should remain anonymous.

### Roster Updates

We are all grateful to Emma Forlanda, our OCDS Central Office secretary, who generously volunteers her time to help with our recordkeeping and correspondence. Please keep Emma updated of changes in your roster (such as changes in mailing and e-mail addresses). It is especially important to send us roster updates promptly after your ceremonies. Again, here is Emma's contact information. Mail: P.O. Box 3079, San Jose, CA 95156; e-mail: [ocds.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ocds.secretary@gmail.com); phone: (408) 332-4707.

## Congress Update

Registration for the Portland OCDS Western Regional Congress, June 20-23, is going very well, thanks be to God—and thanks be to you! *Lee Ann Trunk, Alice Gustafson,* and the *Portland OCDS Community* are working hard for us. I'm hearing of people from one community and group after another who have registered or who are hoping to do so. Some are already planning to drive long distances to save money. It is inspiring to hear how communities are contributing to scholarship funds to help some of their members represent the others. If even one person from your community could attend, all your members would benefit.



As I wrote in my January 25 letter to the communities and groups of the Province, we would appreciate any donations you could make to help with Congress scholarships for our seminarians in Mt. Angel. Our two novices in San Jose will also be attending, along with their novice master, Fr. Ramiro Casale. You can send those Carmelite seminarian donations to me at the OCDS Central Office, P. O. Box 3079, San Jose, CA 95156; or you can donate by PayPal on the Congress website at [www.2013ocdscongress.net](http://www.2013ocdscongress.net).

Remember that the registration fee is higher after March 19. We are very encouraged by the strong advanced registration and urge you not to delay too long to register.

At the beginning of this letter, I wrote that these are historic, important days for the Church and the world. Each of us has an important part in building up the Church in the world today. This begins with a deepening of our personal love for the Lord and for others. St. Teresa writes in *The Interior Castle*, “Love consists. . .in desiring with strong determination to please God in everything; in striving, insofar as possible, not to offend Him; and in asking Him for the advancement of the honor and glory of His Son and the increase of the Catholic Church. These are the signs of love” (IV:1, 7).

A blessed Lent,

Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD  
Provincial Delegate