



# OCDS Provincial Newsletter

California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph

December 10, 2025

Published by the O.C.D.S. Provincial Council

## The Scapular Confraternity

Our Friars recently launched “The Scapular Confraternity.” This is an effort to promote devotion to Our Blessed Mother and Carmelite spirituality through her brown scapular. This is not for Carmelite Seculars; this is for the ordinary lay person (especially those who have had no connection with Our Lady’s brown scapular.) Carmelite Seculars are not ordinary lay persons; rather, they are extraordinary lay persons who belong to the Discalced Carmelite Order in a spiritual and canonical way. Furthermore, their bond with the Scapular and Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is already very strong and significant. So, The Scapular Confraternity is not meant for you. It is, however, a great tool that you can use to promote the Blessed Mother and Carmelite spirituality, especially through your community/group apostolates.

With that said, many of you have expressed interest in enrolling in The Confraternity. You may enroll if you wish, but it is not necessary. If you choose to become part of the Confraternity, there is no need to be “enrolled in the Brown Scapular,” because you already are. On the website, you should click on the “Already Enrolled” button. Inquirers and Aspirants to your communities/groups, however, should be encouraged to enroll in The Confraternity (as they have not received the OCDS scapular nor do they have the bond of Promises with the God, the Order and the Church).

Please help spread the word to all your non-Carmelite friends and family members. Here are some tools to help you do that.

Website: <https://www.carmelscapular.com/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/scapularconfraternity?igsh=NTc4MTlwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/scapularconfraternity?igsh=NTc4MTlwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581224712056>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ibEdR-umcVU>

Rev. Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCD

OCDS Provincial Delegate

Discalced Carmelite Friars

California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph

## The Ceremonial Brown Scapular

(quotes taken from *The Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Catechises and Ritual* unless otherwise stated)

For members of Carmel, wearing the Brown Scapular dedicates each to a specific spiritual way of life, a specific vocation and a calling given us by our Mother Mary who points to living each moment of everyday prescribed through her last known statement: “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5 RSV).

“The Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a reminder to its wearers of the saving grace which Christ gained upon the cross for all: ‘All you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in him’ (Gal 3:27).”

“The Connection between the Order of Carmel and the Brown Scapular is the identifying part of our Carmelite religious habit. Wearing the scapular signifies some degree of membership in our Carmelite Family.”

This all refers not only to the small Brown Scapular that Carmelite Seculars prayerfully wear throughout each day, but also to our Ceremonial Brown Scapulars, worn on special occasions, and is a sign of the habit of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Our OCDS Legislative Documents of the California-Arizona Province states in our Provincial Statutes:

“The large scapular shall be made of brown cloth and a maximum of 7 x 9 inches in size. It shall be plain. (Pins or badges should not be attached).” ... “The large scapular may be worn at Mass on solemnities or feasts of the Discalced Carmelite Order and at meetings and events.” *Provincial Statutes Sec V*

The Oxford English Dictionary defines plain as “simple, smooth, and without embellishment, decoration or ornate patterns.” The large ceremonial scapular “shall be plain.” It represents our devotion to Mary and our call to the Carmelite Order. Our call is to detachment, humility and charity.

Recently, a Carmelite Secular asked a Carmelite Friar, “Why don’t the friars or nuns have any embroidery or decorative artwork on their scapulars?” The friar was quick to point out that the scapular is part of their habit and does not represent the friars as individuals but as part of an Order and community. And, Our Holy Mother, Saint Teresa did away with decorations on the scapular when she founded the reform.

The large OCDS scapular represents the unity of the group, not the individualism of single members. The ceremonial scapulars need to demonstrate to the world the solidarity of the community and not the division of cliques or personal “extra devotions.” Our Ceremonial Brown Scapular is the secular habit. It is the apron of service given to us by Mary. It is not an individualized statement, but a revelation that we belong to something larger than ourselves.

In moving forward, our Province is asking each OCDS community and group that we too share in representing this unity by keeping all our ceremonial scapulars plain and without decoration, embroidery, badges or pins so that we may all be recognized as representing what we truly are: the three branches of Carmel in unity in life and prayer. All ceremonial scapulars with embroidery or decorative designs should be replaced as soon as possible for all upcoming meetings and events.

Please remember that the reason St. Teresa saw need to reform the Carmelite Order was to eliminate the individualism that was occurring amongst the sisters at the Monastery of the Incarnation. She calls us to a life of prayer, simplicity, humility, community, and detachment. Let the scapulars of all three branches of Carmel reflect this unity of all.

## OCDS 2025 Congress

This past June, from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, over 450 members of the OCDS traveled to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona and participated in the 2025 OCDS Congress hosted by the California – Arizona Province of Saint Joseph. The Congress theme was: St. Therese and the Eucharist: “By His presence I am a living Monstrance.” The congress opened on Thursday evening with a recorded video welcome by Rev. Miguel Marquez Calle, OCD, the Superior General. Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD, General Delegate, in a written statement in the congress booklet said:

“St. Therese reminds us that Jesus does not come down from heaven to remain in the tabernacles of churches and chapels. He comes to dwell in another tabernacle much more precious, i.e., the tabernacle of our soul, that sacred place where only He and each one of us can enter, the innermost part of our being where the true encounter with Him takes place.”

During the congress the participants engaged in communal prayer and fellowship, experienced great food and hospitality, and were privileged with hearing spiritual presentations as well as attending Mass. Those presenters and their topics were as follows:

- Fr. Michael-Joseph Paris of Saint Therese, OCD: “Given Up for You, Saint Therese and the Universal Priesthood.”
- Fr. Donald Kinney of Saint Therese, OCD: “The Poetry of Saint Therese – In the night ‘I sing simply what I WANT TO BELIEVE’”
- Sr. Mary Clare Mancini of the Infant Jesus, OCD: “WHY AM I STUCK? The importance of human formation on our path to holiness.”
- Candida Kirkpatrick of the Blessed Trinity, OCDS: “Integration & Healing of Time with our Eucharistic King through the intercession of Saint Therese.”
- Bishop Gregory Homeming of the Holy Spirit, OCD: “Saint Therese and the Jubilee Year of Hope.”

These presentations were introduced by Fr. Matthew Williams, OCD, the Provincial Superior and Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCD, Provincial Delegate. (Each of these presentations can now be viewed on YouTube by searching “Carmelite Friars California Province” and the title of the conference.) Workshops were offered to small groups focusing on Legislative Documents, Teresian Prayer, and the OCDS Charism and Identity. The heart of the Congress was a makeshift chapel for Eucharistic Adoration. There was also a space provided for vendors. It was a joy-filled, spiritual and prayerful gathering for all who attended.

The Provincial Council of the California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph would like to remind all the Carmelite Seculars throughout the province and all those interested in Carmelite spirituality that there is more to belonging to this Order than just attending monthly meetings and attempting to live this spirituality. Besides the everyday prayer life and the apostolic call of spreading this spirituality to others, there are wonderful beneficial gatherings such as OCDS Congresses and retreats every year. Please do not miss these blessed events. More information about such future occasions can be found on the provincial website: [ocds.info](http://ocds.info) or contacting the regional provincial council representative.

## To All Communities and Groups Provincial Dues

Effective January 1, 2026, the annual dues paid by each member to the Provincial Central Office is \$40. If a community member is unable to pay this, in charity, the local Community/Group Council should discern whether the community/group is able to pay it for the individual. If a community/group cannot afford to cover this expense for an individual member, when sending the check to the Central Office please note the number of members that were unable to pay. Please do not include the names of those members. This data is for record keeping only.

These dues go to pay for the salary and office expenses of the Central Office, support for Generalate of the Order, support for the OCDS Congress, and travel expenses for the Provincial Delegate and the Provincial Council.

Rev. Adam Gregor Gonzales, OCD  
OCDS Provincial Delegate  
Discalced Carmelite Friars  
California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph

## Attention

Please check the contact information for your Community/Group to make sure that it is correct on the OCDS Provincial website. Notify your Provincial Representative if it needs updated.

## Mail and Checks to the Provincial Delegate and the Central Office

### MAIL

When mailing documents and dues to the Central Office secretary, Siouxsie Stewart, please use the following address:

OCDS Central Office

**PO BOX 347**

**Oakville, CA 94562**

When sending documents or other correspondence to the Provincial Delegate, please use the following address:

Rev. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D.

**Carmelite Monastery**

**300 Humpert Lane NE**

**Mount Angel, OR 97362**

PLEASE NOTE: When sending request for delegation for a non-spiritual assistant to preside at ceremonies and receive promises, please mail the original document directly to Fr. Adam Gregory in Mount Angel. This will save some considerable time. On this form, please note, clearly, the date of the Ceremonies/Promises. The turnaround time for this permission is 30 days.

### CHECKS

**Checks for dues to the Province** should be made payable to: "Secular Discalced Carmelites" (This is the name on the account and banks have trouble if the payee is not written accurately) and mailed to Siouxsie in Oakville.

**Checks for Donations for our Seminarians** (House of Studies) should be made payable to: "Carmelite House of Studies" and mailed to Fr. Adam Gregory at Mount Angel.

**Checks for Donations to the Uganda Mission** should be made payable to: "Discalced Carmelite Mission" and mailed to:

Nellie Lara

**Carmelite Mission**

**PO Box 8700**

**Redlands, CA 92375**



## 50th Anniversary Celebration for Saint Joseph's OCDS Community

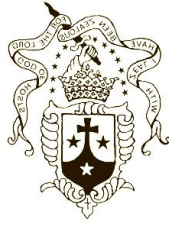
### Woodinville, WA

The Saint Joseph's OCDS Community celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a Day of Recollection on December 6th. The Canonical Establishment of their community was on December 8, 1975, on the feast day of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

Fr. David Guzman, O.C.D. accepted the invitation to celebrate Mass, be the Presider for Morning Prayer, and give two conferences. There will be members from other Carmelite Communities attending for this festive day.

In 1974 Maria Orallo, OCDS, our community foundress, was attending Mass at the Carmelite Monastery. Fr. Reginald McSweeney, O.C.D. came as the Novena director for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel the Nuns always had a reception after the Mass. This particular time, Fr. Reginald asked if he could come to Maria's house for tea with her and her mother instead of going to the reception. There, at her house, he talked to her about having a Carmelite group begin at her home as a prayer group. Our community is forever grateful that Maria accepted that invitation and became the foundress of our community.





## Discalced Carmelite Secular's Title of Devotion

Upon acceptance into formation, each member may add a title of devotion to his/her baptismal name. (See Provincial Statutes, Sec X #1.) The choice of the title should be prayerfully considered by both the member and the Provincial Council. It may only be used when reciting the promise or vows at Community/Group Ceremonies. "Sister" or "Brother" are never to be used. In our Carmelite tradition, lengthy titles should be avoided. Simple titles are to be encouraged.

- The title should reflect the spirituality or devotion of the individual and preferably be Carmelite in nature.
- **One** Saint, Mystery of Christ, the Trinity, or the Blessed Mother may be used. Some examples: *William of the Sacred Heart, Lucille of Mary, Rachel of the Incarnation, Shelly Marie of the Rosary, Robert of Saint Joseph, John of Saint Teresa, Brett of Jesus Crucified, Barbara of the Prince of Peace, Jeanne of Saint Therese, James of Saint Raphael Kalinowsky.* (No double titles.)
- The title should have no need for punctuation. If punctuation is needed it is considered an indication that the title is too long and complex.
- It is recommended that the Community/Group Council permit the member to submit three choices (in order of preference). For example:
  - 1) Maria of Blessed Ann of Saint Bartholomew
  - 2) Maria of Saint Teresa Benedicta
  - 3) Maria of the Child Jesus

The Community/Group Council should prayerfully and practically discern these choices and choose one to be given to the member.

The Devotional Title is a life-time identity within the Order. So, it should be considered carefully, as it is permanent.

October 21, 2025

## OCDS Points to Remember

### Some Basic Carmelite information that every OCDS member should know:

1. In the US, there are 3 different and distinct Provinces

- \* Washington Province (Midwest and East)
- \* Oklahoma Province (South)
- \* California Arizona Province (West)

Things that are the same among the three Provinces:

- a) We are Secular members of one Order - The Discalced Carmelites
- b) We share the same Rule, Ratio and Constitution
- c) All have statutes to govern us. However, each Province has their own
- d) We share the same Formation Program

2. We are part of the one Order of Discalced Carmelites

- \* OCD Friars
- \* OCD Nuns
- \* OCD Seculars

\* We also have over 60 Congregations and Secular Institutes which are affiliated with our Order (i.e. Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles and the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus)

3. We are NOT THE SAME ORDER as the O. Carm (the Ancient Observance). They are a completely different Order. (We are the Primitive Observance.) Our Holy Mother Teresa was an O.Carm before she and our Holy Father St. John of the Cross reformed the Order and became the Order of Carmelites Discalced (OCD).

4. OCSDS Membership

\* Once a member is clothed (given the scapular of the Order) they become a member of the Community (or Group) who accepts them into formation. They are not yet a member of the Order.

\* A member who makes a Temporary Promise becomes a member of the Order and can then add "OCDS" after their name.

\* A member who makes a Definitive Promise is a lifelong member of the Order and is expected to keep the promise they made and remain an active member of the Community to which they belong.

5. Membership Terminology as approved by all 3 Provinces of the United States

\* **Inquirer** – a person who has come to the Community inquiring about the Carmelite Secular Order

\* **Aspirant** – a person selected to enter the Aspirancy program for a period of discernment to determine if God is calling them to a vocation as a Carmelite

\* **Candidate for Temporary Promise** A member of a Community (or Group) in Formation 1

\* **Candidate of Definitive Promise** A member of a Carmelite Community (or Group) who has made a temporary promise and is in Formation 2

\* **Definitively Promised** A member of a Carmelite Community (or Group) who has made a definitive promise for life. These members continue formation for the duration of their lives.

## OCDS Points to Remember (continued)

6. All Aspirants and members are expected to participate in all of the 6 “M’s” of OCDS

- 1) Meditation – 30 minutes every day
- 2) Morning, Evening and Night Prayer (Night Prayer if possible)
- 3) Mass daily
- 4) Marian devotion
- 5) Meetings (monthly)
- 6) Mission

“Being a Carmelite is not a privilege. Being a Carmelite is a responsibility.” *Aloysius Deeney, OCD 2005-07-28*

7. Obedience to the Order is mandatory. We do not act alone, but as a part of the Order. Obedience starts in your own Community (or Group), being obedient to the council which works under the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit. Each Council is then obedient to the Provincial Delegate of the Province.

8. The Provincial Council consists of 5 representatives of the five areas of the Province. These representatives are selected by the Provincial Delegate from Communities and Groups within the areas they represent. They are advisory members who represent the Delegate in their respective areas. They assist Community and Group Councils on matters, as needed. The Council meets monthly with the Provincial Delegate. The Council, also, meets with the other two Provincial Councils of the United States at least once every three years.

9. Members welcomed into the Community or Group are clothed with a ceremonial scapular as a symbol of membership into the Community (or Group). These scapulars are to be worn at OCDS meetings and conferences but not otherwise. Our (CA-AZ Province) statutes define these scapulars, as to size and material and are not to be adorned with any other items. There has been an attempt to standardized the scapulars around the US, but that has not yet been accomplished. Therefore, members will see many different varieties of ceremonial scapulars at Provincial Congresses.

10. “All must be friends

All must be loved

All must be held dear

All must be helped.”

St. Teresa



## Some Church Groups and Organizations Are Incompatible with the OCDS

Many have asked why they can't belong to certain groups, specifically, the Legion of Mary. The fact that this is even a question concerns me. It says, to me, that some don't clearly understand their vocations as Discalced Carmelite Seculars. To be a Carmelite Secular is not to belong to a Church club or prayer group. It is a way of life meant to foster the holiness of the individual in the context of a community as a son or daughter of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Teresa. The OCDS is canonically recognized by the Holy See and is subject to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. We have a very specific charism and way of life. Many other Church organizations, while very good and essential to the life of the Church, are incompatible with our way of life and are unnecessary supplements in attaining union with the Most Holy Trinity. In fact, they can be a hindrance.

For example: the Legion of Mary is distinct organization in our Church; it is a lay apostolic association of Catholics. While the goals are the same as ours - personal sanctification, it has high demands for weekly meetings and intense apostolate. This, also, is not just a club or a prayer group. It relies heavily on devotion to Mary as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. It also requires a "Legionary Promise". While all this is well and good, and essential for the Church, it can conflict with the OCDS way and the great demands already placed on our members.

Finally, I'd like to make 2 practical points:

1). As one of our venerable Friars says, be careful not to fall into "spiritual gluttony." The heart desires much and has good intentions; but, as humans we are unable to be completely faithful if we spread ourselves too thin. The life of an OCDS lived faithfully, has the recipe for holiness and union with God, and ultimately heaven.

2). One of Saint Teresa's Nun's went to her one day and asked to take on an extra devotion. Our Holy Mother, Saint Teresa responded, "when you are living the Holy Rule and our Constitution's perfectly, then, and only then, may you take on this extra devotion."

Rev Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D.

OCDS Provincial Delegate

Discalced Carmelite Friars

California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph

## In Remembrance

To have a deceased member of your community listed in the Provincial Council Newsletter please email the members name, dates of Promises or Vows, date of death, the city and state of the community where they are a member to Pam Gockel, O.C.D.S. at [pgockel20@gmail.com](mailto:pgockel20@gmail.com). They will be listed in the next available Newsletter.

### **Betty Belleau, O.C.D.S.**

Definitive Promise 10/13/1979

Departed 8/7/2025

St. Joseph's OCDS Community

Woodinville, WA

### **Fred Vloria, O.C.D.S.**

Definitive Promise 4/20/2013

Departed 11/24/2025

St. Joseph OCDS Community

Phoenix, AZ

### **Rudyne Egan, O.C.D.S.**

Definitive Promise 9/11/1999

Departed 3/7/2025

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Community

Santa Barbara, CA

### **Patricia Gregory, O.C.D.S.**

Definitive Promise 4/20/2013

Departed 4/4/2025

St. Joseph OCDS Community

Phoenix, AZ

### **Rose Munoz, O.C.D.S.**

Definitive Promise 4/12/2016

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Community

Santa Barbara, CA

*"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of the faithful departed,  
Through the mercy of God,  
Rest in peace. Amen."*