



# OCDS PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

*California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Province,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the birth of St. Teresa has now come and gone, and we are thanking God for all she has done for Carmel and for the Church. 587 Carmelite Seculars and Friars, including 110 people from our Province, celebrated the closing of the Centenary Year at the **Milwaukee National OCDS Congress October 14-17**. This was the largest gathering of the Discalced Carmelite family in the history of this country. On St. Teresa's actual feast day we took ten buses to Holy Hill, where we had a magnificent Mass in the Basilica there.

The OCDS Interprovincial Council (the OCDS Provincial Councils of the three U.S. Provinces) met for a day and a half before the Congress began. Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, our General Delegate, came from Rome to be with us. Two topics were discussed which we want to share with you here: First, as a closing for the Centenary Year, your community might want to ask for volunteers from your members to write a few words on the graces they have received during this year, for your community archives. Secondly, with the great canonization of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin on October 18, it would be good to add the book of their collected letters to your list of reading options for your members who have already made the Final Promise. *A Call to a Deeper Love: The Family Correspondence of the Parents of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus* is available through Alba House ([www.albahouse.org](http://www.albahouse.org) or 1-800-343-2522). We highly recommend this book to you!



The three OCDS Provincial Councils, Provincial Delegates and Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, OCD.

All of us on our OCDS Provincial Council have written these articles together. We hope they will inspire you and help you.

Erin Foord, OCDS (President) [erin.foord@baesystems.com](mailto:erin.foord@baesystems.com) cell: (408) 482-6659

Cheri Kluever, OCDS (Secretary) [ckshurtlef@aol.com](mailto:ckshurtlef@aol.com) home: (707) 252-8750

Lucy Okoh, OCDS [lucianneokoh@yahoo.com](mailto:lucianneokoh@yahoo.com) (303) 806-9923

Lee Ann Trunk, OCDS [leeann.trunk@comcast.net](mailto:leeann.trunk@comcast.net) cell: (360) 903-7656

Amy Holmes, OCDS [amyholmes7ocds@gmail.com](mailto:amyholmes7ocds@gmail.com) cell: (626) 338-8285

Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD [frdonaldocd@gmail.com](mailto:frdonaldocd@gmail.com) (408) 772-2936

Emma Forlanda, OCDS (Central Office Secretary) [ocds.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ocds.secretary@gmail.com) (408) 332-4707

---

## A Year for the Liturgy of the Hours

---

In recent years the Church has been enriched by the Year of the Eucharist, the Year of the Rosary, the Year of St. Paul, and the Year of the Priest. On December 8 we will be beginning the Year of Mercy. In our Province, through November 1, 2016, our OCDS Provincial Council is promoting a **Year for the Liturgy of the Hours**. Our goal for this Year is for us to pray the Liturgy of the Hours more faithfully and prayerfully, as individuals and as communities. *So we ask each community and group to appoint a few members who will be available to explain and offer help to individuals for the Breviary. Each community and group might also like to have some workshops on practical tips to better understand the Liturgy of the Hours.*

*Here are some practical pointers to help during your community recitation of the Divine Office:*

- Make sure all cell phones are turned off.
- Everyone in the community / group should learn how to pray from the Breviary. In community recitation *we try not to use* electronic devices for prayer.
- Make sure your pages are marked before you begin. Before beginning, take a few moments to quiet down, relax, and place yourselves in the presence of God.
- In our Province, the Secular Order follows the practice of the Carmelite friars for the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. Every now and then, it is good to review this practice in our *Formation Guidelines*, pp. 153-156.
- The Presider and Cantors for community recitation should be experienced so that they can perform their roles prayerfully.
- Some common pitfalls in community recitation are members who speak too loud or who rush. Don't be afraid to gently bring this to someone's attention.
- We do not bow at the "Glory be", either standing or seated, following the custom of the Friars.
- The Divine Office should not be chanted at your monthly meeting. This adds another level of difficulty for everyone. Any questions or comments? Kindly email them to Amy Holmes at [amyholmes70cnds@gmail.com](mailto:amyholmes70cnds@gmail.com). If they are helpful, we can respond to them in our next Newsletter.

## Mission Statement Reflection

In our February 2015 Newsletter, we announced a Mission Statement for this triennium: **“Our mission is to awaken a dynamism that will transform the way we live as sons and daughters of St. Teresa, so that we may contribute to awakening the world to a new way of living, one that is possible and that we can incarnate, and which will enable us to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the people of today”** (Gen. Definitory Letter 22, 2014).

Let’s think about what it means “to awaken a dynamism that will transform the way we live as sons and daughters of St. Teresa.” Dynamism is a strong, focused energy for change—and in the context of our faith, for conversion. God is always wanting “to awaken a dynamism” within us for communion with Him and with one another. St. John of the Cross teaches us that as we lead a more disciplined life and grow in good habits, our bad habits, cravings and addictions will gradually fade. Our spirit is continually nourished by the Church’s liturgical life, especially the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. We know too the value of prayer, spiritual reading, and good works to help awaken this dynamism that transforms us. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit, the transforming dynamism that God longs to awaken in each of us.

This is the amazing “joy of the Gospel” that Pope Francis proclaims: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 164).

## Good Communication in Formation

Today communication seems easy with a quick text or email. However, often in community, as in society, we neglect the basic values of person-to-person communication. In prayer the Lord is always building us up in caring, gentleness, simplicity, joy and prudence. In community we need to make sure we are not neglecting these precious values.

Even the forms in our *Formation Guidelines* are meant to improve communication. For instance, do you use the “formation review” for each stage of formation on pp. 171-173? This would also be a good periodic self-evaluation for those long-time members in the Final Promise.

Council members, are you using these forms? For those of you in formation, why not use them for your own progress, and also suggest them to your formators? Tell them you read about it in this *Provincial Newsletter!*

## Communications from our Generalate in Rome

In Fr. Alzinir Debastiani’s report to the General Chapter on May 15, he emphasized the good relationships in our Carmelite family among the Friars, Nuns and Secular Carmelites throughout the world. He thanked the Seculars for all their many important apostolates to help build up the Church. Secular Carmelites are also instrumental in promoting and supporting vocations.

## Communications from our Generalate in Rome (cont'd)

To help you get to know our Order, there are often news bulletins from our General House in Rome. Do you know about our Order's website: [www.carmelitaniscalzi.com](http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com)?

Among the Order's international publications is the newsletter *Communicationes*. Anyone can be put on our Order's free email list at the website above. Have you visited our own Province's website: [www.discalcedcarmelites.com](http://www.discalcedcarmelites.com)? There is a wealth of good information there to help you feel more a part of your Carmelite family.

We congratulate **Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD**, who was ordained to the priesthood at St. Therese Church in Alhambra on August 15. Thank you for your prayers and support for Fr. Peter, who is now assigned to Redlands, for our deacon Bro. Charles Nawodylo in Alhambra, and for all our fine men in formation. Together, we are all building up our Order and the Church.



Fr. Peter Mary at his First Mass, Carmel of St. Teresa, Alhambra

## Our Community Apostolates

If you ask most OCDS members, "What is our apostolate?", almost always the response is "prayer". And that is what our *Provincial Statutes*, Sec. II, 1 states: "The primary apostolate of the Teresian Carmel is prayer." However, brothers and sisters, that sentence continues, "...and its mission is the sharing of the Teresian Carmelite spirituality." How are you and your community actually *sharing* Teresian Carmelite spirituality?

At our Leadership Training Conference in Redlands last March, we gave some good, simple ways to share our spirituality:

- A few times a year the Albuquerque Community attends a weekend Mass in different parishes, sitting together and wearing the brown scapular. With the pastor's permission they distribute holy cards, or our OCDS vocation brochure. (See our website [www.ocds.info](http://www.ocds.info) under "Helps & Tips".) Your community could do the same. This is also a good way to promote vocations to the three branches of our family.
- Your community could also sponsor a morning or day of recollection at a parish during which some of your members could read Carmelite texts or give a simple talk on prayer, on the Eucharist, or on mercy during the Year of Mercy.
- Two or three of your members could give a short talk to a parish youth or young adult group, on prayer or on our Saints.

It would be especially powerful to reach out to others like this in a needy parish.

Do you have other examples of a good community apostolate? Send them to Lee Ann Trunk at [leeann.trunk@comcast.net](mailto:leeann.trunk@comcast.net), and we will share them with our Province.