



OCDS Provincial Newsletter

California-Arizona Province – April 2018

New OCDS CA-AZ Provincial Regions and Leadership Conference News

“...Because we love Christ, we must express that love outwardly in service to others, leading them to Christ. This is the basis for our apostolate.”
(Provincial Statutes, Sec. II, No 2, pg. 53)

Noteworthy and Newsy	A Message from Provincial Delegate Fr. Juan Elias Medina, OCD
<p style="text-align: center;">He is Risen!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>Father Juan Elias is interested in creating a social media committee to serve the good of the members of our Province, to foster Carmelite communion, and for Carmelite evangelization. If you believe you have a charism in this area and would like to serve, please email Father Juan Elias at caazocdsdelegate@gmail.com with the subject line “Social Media Committee.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>Thank you to all who sent in their provincial dues, and thank you for making all future checks payable to “Secular Discalced Carmelites.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>Do you have something interesting to share in future issues of the OCDS CA-AZ Provincial Newsletter? Send articles, news items, photos, or poems to Lynn Miyake at Lkmiyake@aol.com. There are only two rules: Keep it Carmelite, and keep it short. Submissions may be included in future issues as space allows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>Congratulations to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Mass for the Canonical Establishment of the monastery was celebrated on March 19, 2018. Bishop Oscar Cantú of the Diocese of Las Cruces presided.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p>	<p>From March 12 to March 15, we gathered together and celebrated the gift of Carmel through our Leadership Training Conference (LTC). It was a special time of grace for me, as I hope for its participants and in its fruits for the whole family of Carmel. I believe the Holy Spirit was at work and guiding us.</p> <p>The most important point to share from the LTC is the vision of “Carmelite Communion” that will be guiding us during this triennium. The charism of Carmel is one. Yet this one gift of the Holy Spirit expresses itself in diverse ways. It expresses itself through the three expressions of the same family: friars, nuns, seculars. It expresses itself through the various cultures throughout the world in which Carmel exists. And it further expresses itself through every Carmelite with their personal charisms.</p> <p>To better foster Carmelite communion we are dividing the Province into 5 regions, each with a regional representative (RR) (a member from the OCDS Provincial Council) and a patron saint. The regions are: the Northwest with Lee Ann Trunk as the RR and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross as the patron; Northern California with Margaret Shore as the RR and SS. Louie and Zelig Martin as the patrons; Southern California with Amy Holmes as RR and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity as the patron; the Southwest with Lynn Miyake as RR and St. Miriam of Jesus Crucified as the patron; the Central region with Jim Dowd as RR and St. Teresa of Jesus as patron.</p> <p>The implementation of this regional model will provide the opportunity for the regional representative to foster communion among the communities and members of a particular region. They will have a more intimate knowledge of the gifts and needs of the communities of their region. And better knowing the gifts and needs of each community and region, we in turn will be able to better celebrate and share those gifts, and also better serve those needs.</p> <p>The regional representative will be the first contact for communities to deal with issues. Please contact your regional representative when issues arise. Once that happens, the regional representative will contact me, and I and the Council will help tend to your needs. Knowing 72 communities is difficult for one person. But sharing the responsibility will allow for true communion and intimacy to arise among us for the good of the Carmelite family and for the Church.</p> <p>Another point that will guide us is “Carmelite Evangelization”. This will be a natural fruit of Carmelite communion. Carmelite evangelization is simply sharing the gift of Carmel with the wider Church and the world. But I will share more on this point at a later time. (Cont.)</p>

Congratulations as well to Brother Dustin Vu, who made his first profession on March 19, 2018. The solemn Mass and profession were celebrated by Provincial Fr. Adam Gonzalez.

(A Message from Provincial Delegate, Fr. Juan Elias Medina, OCD, Cont.)

I look forward to working more closely with all the Seculars and the communities of our Province. I look forward to fostering Carmelite communion with all of you. I look forward to sharing and living with you the charism that Holy Mother Teresa and Holy Father John handed down to their sons and daughters.

Northwest Region – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



The Northwest Region of the CA-AZ Province, under the patronage of St Teresa Benedicta, published its first newsletter on Saturday, March 24. The newsletter went to the attendees of the Leadership Training Conference and was a reaffirmation of the announcement made by Fr. Juan Elias at the LTC. The newsletter lays out the next steps for the NW Region as they begin to establish the "Carmelite Communion" set out by Fr Juan Elias. We are excited to begin building a region specific community. The members of the NW Region who attended the Leadership Training Conference from left to right: Linda Delorme (Tacoma), Sharon Heidersdorf (Juneau), Se'Vera Dowe (Seattle), Gina Filmer (Portland), Lee Ann Trunk (Portland), Susan Marsh

(Kennewick), Teresa Drollman (Okanogan), Pamela Gockel (Seattle), Jan O'Donnell (Eugene), and Christine Gubbins (Stanwood). (Lee Ann Trunk)

Northern California Region – Sts. Louie and Zelig Martin

What a wonderful experience in bringing together the Northern California Region at the Leadership Training Conference! There are 17 communities/groups in our region, which includes Auburn Community, Berkeley Community, Carmel Community, Ferndale Group, Gilroy Group, Lodi Group, Modesto Community, Oakville Community, Oakville Divine Infant Community, Red Bluff Group, Sacramento Community, San Francisco Cristo Rey Community, San Francisco St. Joseph Community, San Jose Community, San Jose Community, San Rafael Community and Santa Clara Community. Of the 17 communities/groups, 12 were represented. We were all excited about Fr. Juan Elias's vision of "Carmelite Communion", our coming together to support, collaborate and nourish one another in and through our Carmelite Charism. This is new life for our order and we await the Holy Spirit to unfold the vision for the good of the Province, the Church and the World. (Margaret Shore)



Southern California Region – St. Elizabeth of the Trinity



The Southern California Region under the patronage of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity came together at the recent Leadership Training Conference. All but two in our region were represented. Attendees from the Southern California region included: Joy Bretney, Long Beach Community; Irene Corral, Alhambra Group; Ana-Nogales-Till, Redlands Community; Susan Orthuber, Santa Barbara Community; Mary Ortiz, Bakersfield Community; Sharon Perry, Alhambra Community; Phillip Reher, Long Beach Community; Cherrilee Reidel, San Diego Community; Sharon Spangler, Coronado Study Group; Jacquelyn

Tarallo, Palm Desert Group; Manny Villacana, Bakersfield Community; Nina Visconti, Orange County Group; Rose Wong, Westlake Village Community; and Amy Holmes, Alhambra Group. Amy Holmes is the regional contact for the Southern California Region. This region looks forward to forming Carmelite Communion among our communities and groups in our region and throughout the Province in this Triennium. (Amy Holmes)

Southwest Region – St. Miriam of Jesus Crucified

In the absence of Lynn Miyake at the Leadership Conference, Father Juan Elias met with the OCDS representatives from Arizona and New Mexico. What a wonderful beginning for our regional fraternal communion! Actually, Father Juan Elias anticipated the regional concept by meeting with the Arizona Communities and Groups in 2016. Lynn hopes to arrange a regional meeting for the New Mexico Communities/Groups in the coming year. The Southwest Region attendees at the Leadership Conference from left to right were Eileen Lujan (Albuquerque, NM), Theresa Martinez (Sierra Vista, AZ), Jean Brown (Phoenix, AZ), Toni Diaz (Tucson, AZ, Spanish Group), Dorothy Nonniak-Tolar (Tucson, AZ, Santa Cruz Parish), Carolyn Renzy (Yuma, AZ), and Donna Garmon (Las Cruces, NM). (Lynn Miyake)



Central Region – St. Teresa of Jesus



After returning home from our blessed time together at the OCDS Leadership Conference, I took some moments to reflect upon how this gathering differed from others I have attended over the years. It didn't take long. As in past conferences, there were great socializing events, workshops and presentations, memorable Masses, spiritual junctures and special times of liturgical prayer. The meals, the "meet and greet," along with the dining room conversations, were, as always, good, tasty, fun and fulfilling. As in the past, there were always special moments of sharing our Carmelite spirituality, prayer, exchanges centering on ideas about improving meetings, and the journey inward to be with God, yet this conference seemed to invite us to new pathways, ways to exploring roads intended to carry Carmel into the world, allowing us to share Carmelite spirituality with our neighbors and fellow parishioners. This Conference, for me, was an invitation into the second part of what St. Therese summons us to in her great work, *Act of Oblation to Merciful Love*, where she writes, "O My God! Most blessed Trinity, I desire to *Love You and make You Loved...*"

The conferences I remember from the past, at least for me, addressed the first half of this invitation, which Fr. Juan Elias referred to as "Carmelite Communion." What seemed new for me was Fr. Juan Elias' invitation for us to actually formulate our various Carmelite apostolates. His request for each group and community to actually put these apostolates into writing, to formulate our ambiguous concepts of introducing our spirituality to others and, instead, to construct a concrete avenue of sharing our spirituality with the world, is what he referred to as "Carmelite Evangelization." For me this was the fresh focus of the 2018 conference, incorporating the two parts of St. Therese's call. These two dimensions of our calling, to discover God within ourselves and our Carmelite communities and then generously share our spirituality with the world, is for me, the fulfillment of St. Therese's beckoning call, to know and love God and then to make him known and loved by others. (Jim Dowd)

"I am grateful to God for our time together in prayer, formation and fraternal sharing. It's been truly a source of inspiration as we are sent forth with the guiding vision of Carmelite Communion." (Cherry Caparas, San Jose CA.)

"The leadership conference was awesome. Had a great time. Learned a ton and meet amazing people." (Carolyn Renzy, Yuma AZ)

"I had a real sense of community - the broader sense of who we are as Carmelites! I saw the face of God in each person I met who came from all walks of life!. Amazing week filled with such grace and joy!" (Becky Wysoski, East Helena, MT)

"I learned a lot of practical, useful information to help me as president. The speakers were excellent. I'm looking forward to developing Carmelite Communion with the communities in my Region." (Ana Nogales-Till, Redlands, CA)

"I want to thank you for the work you did in helping to put on the Leadership Conference. It was nice to meet you in person and I'm glad we got a chance to sit together at one meal. Your [Lee Ann Trunk's] talk was informative and helpful. I hope we get a chance to meet again." (Suzanne Porter, Sacramento, CA)