



OCDS Provincial Newsletter

California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph – September 2021

Persevering in Carmel

“We must fly to the heart of Jesus, and as doves, make our nest in Him.”
Bl. Maria of Jesus (Toledo, Spain) – Discalced Carmelite Memorial – September 12

Reminders	Bl. Maria of Jesus, a Model of Charity and Perseverance By Lynn Miyake, OCDS, Provincial Councilor
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OCDS Groups and Study Groups
Please remember to send a copy of your **monthly meeting minutes** to the Cental Office, as required by our Provincial Statutes. We are also asking that you send a copy of the minutes to your Provincial Council Regional Representative.

Recordkeeping Quiz

Why is **accurate recordkeeping** for OCDS members important?
(Choose all that apply.)

- a)** Because everyone loves to do paperwork.
- b)** Because it’s an act of charity to our members to maintain accurate records of their status in the OCDS Central Office.
- c)** Because it is required by our Provincial Statutes.
(See page 2 for the answers.)

Remembering our Deceased

Please remember the following OCDS members in your prayers:

- Art Wehr, OCDS**
Auburn, California
- Jill Milazzo, OCDS**
- Mary White, OCDS**
- Arlene Naegelin, OCDS**
- Len Schroeder, OCDS**
Bakersfield, California
- Veronica Bullock, OCDS**
Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Lourdes Manabat, OCDS**
Las Vegas, Nevada

Some years ago in Toledo, Spain, I gathered up my courage, along with my broken Spanish, and introduced myself at the convent of Discalced Carmelite Nuns. After struggling to understand each other through the turn, the portress invited me to meet with her through the grill in the parlor. There, she gave me a booklet about Bl. Maria of Jesus, who had spent most of her long religious life in the Toledo Carmel. The portress then directed me to the convent chapel, where I would see her incorrupt body through a window in the chapel wall. I was deeply moved by that small figure in a Carmelite Habit. She looked to be about four feet tall, but as I began to study her life, I came to understand that she was a true spiritual giant in the practice of charity and perseverance.



Bl. Maria was drawn to St. Teresa’s reform at a young age. She suffered a deep internal struggle about her vocation between the ages of 12 and 14, but she finally became convinced that her call was from God. She left home, family, and wealth to enter the convent in Toledo at the age of 17 in 1577. Her first months as a novice were filled with peace and joy, but her health deteriorated from severe penances and temptations, and the community was in doubt about receiving her profession. St. Teresa of Jesus intervened, writing from Avila that Maria’s profession was the will of God, even if she had to spend her entire life in bed.

In August of 1578, a month before her profession, Bl. Maria met St. John of the Cross when he took refuge with the nuns in their convent after his escape from the Carmelite friars of Toledo. She was able to hear his beautiful verses from his own lips, and later, he became her spiritual director.

Bl. Maria didn’t spend her entire life in bed, but her long life was filled with much pain and physical suffering, along with generous service to her community in various positions within the convent. In 1629, she heard the Lord say to her, “Maria, you asked me to grant you the grace of detachment from your body, but you know that it is not yet time, because until now, you have lived for yourself. Now, you must live for others, so that your rest may be eternal.” And so, she continued to serve her community in the midst of pain and suffering until her death at the age of 80 in 1640. May God grant each of us the grace to persevere in our vocation with faithful and generous hearts, as did Bl. Maria of Jesus.

Source: *La Beata María de Jesus*, Convent of the Discalced Carmelites, Toledo, Spain.

If you know of an OCDS member of our Province who died within the last 12 months, please send the name and location to the editor, Lynn Miyake, OCDS at lkmiyake@aol.com. The names will be included in future newsletters.

Recordkeeping Quiz (Continued)

As you have guessed, the correct answers to the Recordkeeping Quiz on page one are (b) and (c). We don't often think of recordkeeping as an act of charity, but it truly is. From time to time, the OCDS Central Office receives requests for information concerning OCDS members, especially their dates and locations of profession. If their OCDS Communities and Groups have not properly submitted this information to the OCDS Central Office, members are often faced with the arduous task of locating individuals who can confirm their information.

Recordkeeping is also an act of obedience, since it is required by Provincial Statutes, Sec. XV. Community rosters, minutes, treasurers' reports, agendas, ceremonial forms, attendance records, and others are all required to be maintained. Obedience was so highly valued by our foundress, St. Teresa of Jesus. She knew that it is one of the greatest ways we can demonstrate our love for God in small everyday acts that may seem to have little significance in the grand scheme of things.

Here is a brief summary of the required forms that can be found on OCDS.info/forms:

Application & Permanent Record Form A: This form is required to be completed for each aspirant at the time of clothing and reception into formation. It is the permanent record for the member, and it should be updated as the member progresses through temporary and definitive profession, and vows, if applicable.

Ceremonies Form B: This form is required to be completed for every ceremony that is performed (clothing, temporary profession, definitive profession, and vows).

Change of Record Form C: This form is required when there is a change in address, telephone number, name, or legal status of a member.

Deceased Member Record Form D: This form is required to be completed upon the death of a member.

The **Elected Council, Transfer Application, Spiritual Assistant Appointment, and Delegation of Faculties** forms, as well as several other required forms and their distribution are available on ocds.info/forms.