

CARMEL CLARION



OCDS NEWSLETTER
Eastern Regional Office
THE COMMON
182 Old Street Road
Peterborough NH 03458-1644

VOLUME X, NO. 3

SEPT - DECEMBER 1994

FALL LETTER FROM YOUR
PROVINCIAL DELEGATE:
FATHER PATRICK FARRELL OCD

Dear Members of the Secular Order,
Fall can be a dreary time of year. People can become more depressed or somber than usual as the daylight periods grow shorter. So, special family or extended family occasions like Thanksgiving and Christmas play an important role in lifting our spirits.

May I share with you an incident that occurred after a big family get-together? I forget which occasion it was, but at my sister Patty's house, my five-year old niece was asked to bring the dishes from the dining-room table into the kitchen. And Alice did just that. One by one she carried each dish into the kitchen. But, one hand held the dish, and one hand was high in the air as she brought the dishes into the kitchen. My sister asked her, "Why don't you use both hands?" She replied that she had her hand in the hand of God, of Jesus. That was a five-year old's awareness of the presence of God.

A few minutes later, my sister heard her say from around the corner, "Hold your horses, God. I can't go any faster!"

It reminded me of St. Teresa of Avila's living with God sort of looking over her shoulder at what she was writing.

The incident also brought to my mind Jesus' conversation with the Father, when he remarked how neat it was that God the Father was revealing Himself to mere children, and not to the wise and clever.

For all of us Carmelites, all of us Christians, and, in fact, for all human beings, to be aware of God's nearness is a truly wonderful gift!

My fellow Carmelites, you do not have to walk around with a hand in the air to live in the presence of God. The challenge we have is to walk through life with a "deep sense of faith in God's love" (Rule of Life, Art. 2).

(Continued on next page)

Some Guiding Reflections on the



Icon of the Servant of Yahweh Blessed Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

(More information inside)

When or where is God most lovingly, truly real for you? It may not be before supper, but after supper as it was for Alice. It may not be when the sun is bright, but when nature is dark or dreary. Elijah the Prophet recognized the nearness of God in a gentle breeze. When is the best time for your prayer, when it is easiest to be just you to Jesus or the Father, or the Holy Spirit?

My best time is often when I am in bed and before the day begins. St Therese of Lisieux spoke of praying behind the bed where she felt comfortably alone with God Who loved her. By the way, you are allowed to have more than one time and place where God reveals Himself to you.

-- Fr. Pat, OCD

The Icon of Edith Stein:

On Aug 9, 1992, to comemorate the 50th anniversary of her death and martyrdom in the concentration camps in Poland, an icon of Blessed Theresa Benedicta of the Cross was painted and presented to the Discalced Carmelites in Auschwitz following an all night vigil culminating with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

This icon is explained in a booklet accompanied by an icon prayer card. The price of the booklet is \$.55;(cards \$.05). Shipping/handling = \$2.25 per 25. Make payment to:
 JOANNA PAWLAK
 176 ARNOLD STREET
 REVERE MA 02151

Do you have questions or problems about the Secular Order, its life, who can or should do what?

Most of your answers can be found in the 18 page booklet *Rule of Life* which includes the current *Local Statutes for the USA*. This booklet, available since 1990 and originally costing \$.50 plus P/H, is available to you for your reimbursing this office for the postage to send copies to you, and whatever you want to add as a donation. I see no advantage to sitting on four or five cases of these booklets when they can solve many of your questions!

I strongly urge you to re-read the *Rule of Life*. It is what you promise/vow to live!

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites
With Zeal Have I Been Zealous

Profession of Promise

inspired by the Holy Spirit, in response to God's call, sincerely promise to the Superiors of the Order of Discalced Carmel and to you, my brothers and sisters, to tend toward evangelical perfection in the spirit of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, obedience, and of the Beatitudes, according to the Rule of the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites, for three years. I confidently entrust this my Promise, to the Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel.

for the Lord

Signature of Member

Print/Authorized Receiver of Promise

Authorized Council Member

1

After a lapse of five years, the updated Certificates (of 3yr or Life Promise and Vows) can now be obtained for .25 ea plus postage. They are 8 1/2 by 11" with the shield in yellow-gold in the background. They are not required. You can scribble your special event on the back of a holy card as I have seen some do. Or you can obtain a folder with a picture on one side and a text of the promise on the other. At present this is not available here at Peterborough.

It is important to realize what you promise, and to whom. This can remind you. For example, you are promising to tend toward evangelical/gospel perfection. How can you achieve that without reading and mulling over the gospel message -- at least once in a while?

That is why the current *Ritual* (1990) prescribes that a copy of the New Testament be given to the one entering Formation. Does your life illustrate--in your circumstances--the attitudes of Jesus?

DISCALCED



CARMELITE

NOVEMBER 1994

SECULAR

ORDER

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 All Saints <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> The pure and whole work done for God in a pure heart merits a whole kingdom for its owner. John of the Cross (Sayings 21)	2 All Souls Death will come when least expected. Then all will disappear and only the good can be taken with you. We must all die. Each day brings us closer to eternity. Why do we attach ourselves to things that will pass away? Teresa of the Andes (c156,d42)	3 St. Martin de Porres	4 St. Charles Borromeo First Friday	5 B.V.M. First Saturday	
6 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Oh, how different this life would have to be in order for one not to desire death! How our will deviates in its inclination from that which is the will of God. He wants us to love truth; we love the lie. He wants us to desire the eternal; we, here below, lean toward what comes to an end.	7	8 Election Day	9 Dedication of St. John Lateran In heaven, we shall not meet with indifferent glances, because all the elect will discover that they owe to each other the graces that merited the crown for them. Little Therese	10 St. Leo the Great	11 St. Martin of Tours Veterans Day To adore God in truth is to acknowledge that we are completely the opposite to Him and that He wishes very much to make us like Him if we wish it... Br. Lawrence	12 St. Josaphat
13 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Catholic National Bible Week God to His creatures: not a sensible love, but that love "strong as death that deep waters cannot quench". Elizabeth of the Trinity (Heaven in Faith 9)	14	15 St. Albert the Great It is love that attracts, that draws God to His creatures: not a sensible love, but that love "strong as death that deep waters cannot quench".	16 St. Margaret of Scotland St. Gertrude Deny your desires and you will find what your heart longs for. For how do you know if any desire of yours is according to God?	17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary John of the Cross (Sayings 15)	18 Dedication of the Churches of SS. Peter & Paul St. Rose Philippine Duchesne	19 B.V.M. The first way (of acquiring the Presence of God) is a great purity of life. Br. Lawrence
20 Christ the King A soul enkindled with love is a gentle, meek, humble, and patient soul. John of the Cross	21 Presentation of Mary Only when we face ourselves with open mind in areas we value highly, do we realize the force or valuelessness of our needs. Benedicta of the Cross (Life & Letters 35)	22 St. Cecilia	23 St. Clement I St. Columban Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro (34th Week in Ordinary Time)	24 SS. Andrew Dung-Lac & companions Thanksgiving Day Let your soul be a host of praise & a host of love that perpetually sacrifices itself for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity and makes known the infinite love and mercy of God who is love. Teresa of the Andes (Sayings 272)	25	26 B.V.M.
27 1st Sunday of Advent If you desire that devotion be born in your spirit and that the love of God & the desire for divine things increase, cleanse your soul of every desire, attachment, and ambition in such a way that you have no concern about anything. ...Without doing this, you will not advance no matter how much you do. John of the Cross (Sayings - L.&L. 78)	28 Hanukkah	29	30 St. Andrew			

DISCALCED

CARMELITE

SECULAR

ORDER

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1994

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1

2 ^{First Friday}3 ^{St. Francis Xavier}
^{First Saturday}

If you desire to be perfect, sell your will, give it to the poor in spirit, come to Christ in meekness and humility, and follow him to Calvary and the sepulcher.

John of the Cross (Sayings of Light and Love 165)

4 ^{2nd Sunday}
^{of Advent}5 ^{Bl. Bartholomew}
^{Fanti, O. Carm.}6 ^{St. Nicholas}7 ^{St. Ambrose}

The work I had been unable to do in ten years was done by Jesus in one instant, contenting Himself with my good will which was never lacking, I could say to Him like His apostles; "Master, I have fished all night and have caught nothing." More merciful to me than He was to His disciples, Jesus took the net Himself, cast it, and drew it in filled with fish. He made me a fisher of souls.

8 ^{Immaculate Conception}
^{Holy Day of Obligation}9 ^{Blessed Juan Diego}

10

Honor Mary as much as possible. She is your good and loving Mother. She will never fail to watch over you. Ask the Most Holy Virgin to be your guide, to be your star, the lamp that shines in the midst of the darkness of your life.

Teresa of the Andes

11 ^{3rd Sunday}
^{of Advent}12 ^{Our Lady of Guadalupe}13 ^{St. Lucy}14 ^{St. John of the Cross}

15

16

17

The traits of the solitary bird are five: first, it seeks the highest place; second, it withstands no company; third, it holds its beak in the air; fourth, it has no definite color; fifth, it sings sweetly. These traits must be possessed by the contemplative soul.

The contemplative soul must rise above passing things, paying no more heed to them than if they did not exist. It must likewise be so fond of silence and solitude that it does not tolerate the company of another creature. It must hold its beak in the air of the Holy Spirit, responding to his inspirations, that by so doing it may become worthy of his company.

18 ^{4th Sunday}
^{of Advent}

19

20

21 ^{St. Peter Canisius}

22

23 ^{St. John of Kanty}24 ^{Christmas Eve}

The contemplative soul must have no definite color, desiring to do nothing definite other than the will of God. It must sing sweetly in the contemplation and love of its Bridegroom.

Always see God and His glory in everything we do, say, and undertake; that the end we should seek is to be the most perfect adorers of God in this life, as we hope to be through all eternity; take a firm resolution to overcome, with God's grace, all the difficulties which are met in the spiritual life.

Br. Lawrence of the Resurrection (Spiritual Maxims)

John of the Cross (Sayings Of Light and Love 121)

25 ^{Christmas Day}
^{Holy Day of Obligation}26 ^{St. Stephen}27 ^{St. John}28 ^{Holy Innocents}29 ^{St. Thomas Becket}30 ^{Holy Family}31 ^{St. Sylvester I}
^{New Year's Eve}

...this miracle He performed on ...Christmas day. On that luminous night which sheds such light on the delights of the Holy Trinity, Jesus, the gentle little Child...made Himself subject to weakness and suffering for love of me...
Theresa of the Child Jesus

Bear in mind that your flesh is weak and that no worldly thing can comfort or strengthen your spirit, for what is born of the world is world and what is born of flesh is flesh. The good spirit is born only of the Spirit of God, who communicates himself neither through the world nor through the flesh.

John of the Cross (Sayings of Light and Love 43)

JANUARY 1995

DISCALCED
CARMELITE
SECULAR
ORDER
CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Mary, Mother of God <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> New Year's Day Nuns Foundation in Caravaca in 1576 "Love turns work into rest." St. Teresa</p>	<p>2 SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen Therese Martin's Birthday in 1873. "I desire to accomplish your will perfectly." Little Therese</p>	<p>3 Bl Kuriakos Elias Chavara, CIM-OCJ', "The language he best hears is silent love." St John of the Cross</p>	<p>4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seïon Therese Martin's Baptism in 1873. "In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I shall be loved Th.</p>	<p>5 St. John Neumann First Friday St Teresa finishes the WAY OF PERFECTION in 1500 Mary Baouardy born near Nazareth in 1846.</p>	<p>6 Bl. André Bessette First Saturday "All of us who wear this holy Habit of Carmel are called to prayer and contemplation." St. Teresa</p>	<p>7 "Our Lord is always there praying in me and I pray with him." Bl Elizabeth</p>
<p>8 John Carroll born, 1735, first U.S. bishop St. Peter Thomas, O. Carm.</p>	<p>9 "All of us who wear this holy Habit of Carmel are called to prayer and contempla- tion." St. Teresa St. Andrew Corsini, O. Carm.</p>	<p>10 "Oh, then soul most beautiful of all creatures...you- yourself are his dwelling." St. John of the Cross Little Therese receives the Habit in 1888</p>	<p>11 Bl Elizabeth takes her Vows in 1803. "Prayer is the essence of the life at Carmel." Bl Elizabeth</p>	<p>12 St. Marguerite Bourgeois (Canada) "Conquering the tongue is better than fasting bread and water." St John of the Cross</p>	<p>13 St. Hilary First known record of "Order of St. Mary of Mount Carmel." in 1252.</p>	<p>14 "May God be blessed forever who waited for me so long." St Teresa</p>
<p>15 "Alas, he finds so few hearts who surrender to him without any reservations." Little Therese</p>	<p>16 "Love consists not in feeling great things...but in suffering for the Beloved." St John of the Cross</p>	<p>17 St. Anthony "I try to give joy to my Master by being, even on earth, the "Praise of Glory." Bl Elizabeth</p>	<p>18 83rd Week of Prayer for Christian Unity "Even though they fall again, there remains a sign that the Lord was present in their prayer." St. Teresa</p>	<p>19 "The purest suffering produces the purest understanding." St. John of the Cross</p>	<p>20 St. Fabian St. Sebastian Secular Order RULE OF LIFE approved in 1879.</p>	<p>21 "The true lover loves everything and is always thinking of the Beloved." St Teresa</p>
<p>22 "Jesus does not demand great actions from us but simple surrender and gratitude." Little Therese</p>	<p>23 "Be deeply sorry for any time that is lost' or passes without your loving God." St John of the Cross</p>	<p>24 St. Francis de Sales "It seems to me that I have my heaven on earth, since heaven is God, and God is in my soul." Bl Elizabeth</p>	<p>25 Conversion of St. Paul R. Kallnowski freed salt mines in Siberia in 1874. Nuns Foundation in Alba de Tormes, 1571. St John of the Cross Beatified in 1875.</p>	<p>26 SS. Timothy & Titus "There is much to fathom in christ, for he is like an abundant mine." St John of the Cross</p>	<p>27 St. Angela Merici "Mother, obtain perseverance for me so that I may become totally perfect." Bl Elizabeth</p>	<p>28 "After earth's exile I hope to go and enjoy you in the Fatherland." Little Therese</p>
<p>29 "What does it profit you to give God one thing if he asks of you another." St John of the Cross</p>	<p>30 Primitive Rule accepted by Pope Honorius III in 1220.</p>	<p>31 St. John Bosco "In falling I had many friends to help me; in rising I found myself so alone." St Teresa of Jesus</p>				

TWO TYPES OF FORMATION

The normal monthly meeting should include TWO types of "formation" periods: the regular or first formation, e.g.: the Frederick, Washington St Jos., Hubertus, or one of the others. Then, there should also be something for everyone. Otherwise, those in "first Formation" will be making their 3yr Promise without having even heard about St. Therese, Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, the Ascent/Dark Night of John of the Cross, etc., which is not even touched upon in the packaged programs because that is presumed to be covered in their normal, unwritten, on-going "Formation" programs.

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL. No one program fits the needs of all groups. In many OCDS Communities there is a sharing of the burden of the Formation Director. The Councillors take some of the classes or sit in, supportively, during the sessions both to give moral support to the one leading the Formation class and to those in it.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY GOOD VISIONS LATELY?

As a philosophy student at our monastery of Holy Hill many years ago, that was a conversation piece. My fellow Friars also used to ask, "Have you read any good books lately?" (I found the latter question easier to answer! I wasn't about to tell anybody about any visions, if and when I did get them!)

Jesus and Mary and other Saints and Angels can appear to people. It happened in the New Testament. And many times since. The question is how not to become proud and think we are most holy because we have had visions. If you get visions it may be because you are very much a beginner in the spiritual life and God has to go to extreme measures to help you along!

St. John of the Cross says we should reject all visions and locutions. With that approach we will not be fooling ourselves or be victims of the devil. St. John tells us that, if the vision is from God, it will have its good effect even if we reject it. So reject all visions is his message. That is safe Discalced Carmelite spirituality. But, **what about other people's visions?**

One choice is to reject them all. Which only means: don't arrange your life according to them. Some visionaries have, in time, turned out to be admitted liars. If they say something like "pray the Rosary"--which you know to be good anyway--do it, but not just because some visionary said to do so. You do it because it will keep you in touch with the Gospel Jesus (and Mary), ones you should imitate.

If your efforts do not help you become more Christlike. . . you know you're in the wrong lane. If you see yourself as gradually becoming more Christlike, moving beyond the vision to your imitation of Christ, you are in the right lane.

On the practical side...:

Did you know . . . that When the Church approves a vision story, it does not guarantee that it is correct or really happened. It is simply saying that there is nothing against faith or morals in the alleged apparition.

When the Church disapproves an apparition, it is simply saying it must be phony because, for example, at Necedah in Wisconsin, there were statements that were opposed to Church dogma--Mary as Mediatrix in place of Christ!--which is heresy. Then you are really in the wrong, on-coming lane! Turn around and f-a-s-t. Or Else.

"A MAN (OR WOMAN) MAKES PROGRESS ONLY THROUGH THE IMITATION OF CHRIST."

Ascent Bk II, ch 7, par 8.

--St John of the Cross

Thank You. . .

At Thanksgiving time it is most appropriate to say Thanks to those who have helped. There is Alma Lum--who has put together the Calendar by herself. I added January from a previous year, so we will finally catch up! I find myself behind and her marvellous work is late only because I am late. If anyone has any quotes that are Carmelite and you want to share, send them to her. Alma Lum, PO BOX 1735, Concord, NH 03302-1735. She does not expect any thanks. But. . .she has done a good job, don't you think? I would like those who see helpful quotes to send them to her for consideration for the Calendar.

PASTORAL VISITATIONS?

In Article 20 of the *Rule of Life* there is a mention of pastoral visitations by the Provincial or his Delegate.

As the Provincial Delegate for the Eastern Third of the USA, as the Representative of the Teresian Carmel, to so many (3800 +) I asked myself, what should I do? And God answered my question. "*Shut up. Just go visit them. They and you will do all right.*" (By the way, I rejected that locution. God does have His effect anyway!)

I thank several hundred of you for being good to me when I visited with you. And for enjoying my humor: when you chuckled, I relaxed and could talk to you more easily. Thank you!

I am hoping to visit as many places in Florida as I can in January. I have a retreat in Tampa. And I hope to visit as many as possible going and coming.

In April, 1995, I hope to visit as many as possible in the midwest, starting with my old "circuit". That, for me, will be like going home.

In my visitations I am not a fault-finder. I know as well as you that not all is perfect. But, I am coming to encourage and build morale rather than look for faults.

My best experience was with Munster, IN. I told them to take their time in making any changes from what they were doing. I really did not expect any early changes in their community. I was almost shocked that they looked at the *Rule of Life* and started making major changes toward becoming one of the best OCDS groups in the world. (If you are a Munster OCDS person, don't let my praise make you too proud!)

Their response to each person having a copy of the Rule in his/her hands led me to try this with others. Get the real *Rule of Life* in people's hands and watch. (I mean just what the Rule of Life says--without any commentary!) In fact, since you can make a cheap copy of the Rule, why not give it to Newcomers right away. If they have a vocation to the Blue Army, or the Legion of Mary, or some other organization, then they will see the difference sooner.

From the exhortations of Saint Raphael, Religious

You must be holy

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES praise nothing more than a perfect and holy life lived in the exact and perfect fulfillment of each one's duties. In the Old Testament our Lord and God taught his people and told them: 'You must be holy because I am holy' (Lv 11:44).

The Eternal Father gave us our Lord Jesus Christ as our teacher, master and guide. He confirmed and ratified the Old Testament injunction where he taught us that we must emulate the holiness of the Father: 'You must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect' (Mt 5:48). How does one become perfect and holy? The Doctors of the Church, the leaders of souls, and the masters of the spiritual life answer: If you would be perfect and become holy, fulfill your duties faithfully.

Once a desert father was asked by a certain young hermit what books he ought to study in order to advance in holiness. The old man replied: My practice is to read two books only. In the morning hours I read the Gospel, and in the evening I read the Rule. The first teaches me the way I should walk as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. The other teaches me what I should do to be a good religious. That is enough for me.

Let us therefore be students of the laws of God so that we may conduct ourselves according to them. 'When you walk, these will guide you; when you lie down, watch over you; when you wake, talk with you' (Pv 6:22). Wherever we may be or go, may they go with us to direct our footsteps. May they be so near us when we sleep that they may fill our thoughts as soon as we awaken. His voice will speak to us in them. He will refresh us for the day ahead. Through his laws we will gain the victory over our doubts. We will cast away every obstacle. We will free ourselves of that sluggishness of nature which is the enemy of strength, the foe of devotion, and the lover of ease. The law of life will help us to overcome our fears in time of temptation and to follow-eagerly in the way of obedience. May it always be at hand to counsel us, so that by it we may find the strength to follow God's call with generous hearts and willing souls.

Quoted from the *Supplement* which you can purchase from ICS 2131 Lincoln Rd, NE, Wash DC 20002 for \$25 plus P/H. Each OCDS group should have at least one of these. In time, the remaining 1000+ will be gone. Why not buy a copy at least for your OCDS group? You can make copies for others later on when they are out of print!

Fr. Bruno wants me to let you know about the Infant Jesus Carmelite Mission Association. At least one OCDS group has decided it will make our Nairobi, Africa involvement their "apostolate". But, \$5.00 to Fr. Bruno brings you Association Member benefits. 166 Foster St, Brighton, MA, 02135-3902

LAST MENTION OF THE R-WORD!

After this following information I do not want to hear the R-word again. The R-word is OCDS rings! Fr. Denis Read at Holy Hill, WI, tells me that Lonnie Sorenson, a friend of Dorothy Schik, is willing to help those interested in the Carmelite rings. Her phone number is 612-454-9430. And even more recently, Fr. Bruno informs me a person can deal directly with the manufacturer: the Robbins Company, 400 O'Neill Boulevard, Attleboro, MA 02703. Their phone number is 508-222-2900. They come in sterling silver and 14 or 18 karat gold. You need to specify your ring size and whether you want the small, intermediate, or large type of ring.

CALENDAR INPUT?

Alma Lum, OCDS, PO Box 1735, Concord, NH 03302-1735, is the one who has been doing the calendars. In this current issue I took an old calendar set of quotes to add January. I hope that, with the next issue, the calendar quotes will be ahead of, instead of behind the time you get the *Clarion*. If you have any favorite and brief Carmelite quotes, send them to Alma at the above address. She may be able to use them.

OCDS NEWSLETTER

Eastern Regional Office
THE COMMON
182 Old Street Road
Peterborough NH 03458-1644

Address Correction Requested

A LETTER FROM OUR SUPERIOR GENERAL

In its 168th session on May 23, 1994, the Definitory General gave the following interpretation of paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the *Rule of Life* concerning the erection of Communities of the Secular Order:

A group may begin when the Provincial Superior appoints an Assistant (Cfr Arts 20, 21,22). Permission to erect the group into a fraternity is to be sought only when there are at least 10 professed members, two of whom have made their definitive Promise, unless the local statutes provide for a higher number.

I would ask you to transmit this decision to all the groups of the Secular Order under your jurisdiction.

With Fraternal greetings,

Fr. Camilo Maccise, OCD
Superior General

Note about the above letter: *Definitory* is another name for Council. Also, at present, the Local Statutes for the USA require 12 members.

May you all enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving and a most blessed Christmas!

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