



From the Desk of Our Provincial Delegate:

Dear Presidents, Treasurers and all members,

Recently the Regional Assistants and the OCDS Provincial Council met in Ontario, CA. At the time of the Congress it was decided: That all members of our Secular

Order are asked to pay their dues by January 31, 2020. Beginning July 1 of this year those who receive the scapular during the year, regardless of when they receive it, are not obliged to pay dues until January 31 along with the rest of their community. There are no back dues. The purpose of this change is to allow the new candidates a period of grace that they may focus on their formation before assuming financial responsibilities.

They may subscribe to the Clarion at any time.

This new policy is not retroactive. Unfortunately we cannot provide refunds for those who have already contributed. We thank you for your generosity and good will.

Formation Directors are reminded that they are to inform the Main Office at the time when candidates do receive the scapular.

Thank you.
In Carmel,

Fr Salvatore, OCD Provincial Delegate
Angela Runner, OCDS Provincial Council President
Mary Rodriguez-Harrington, OCDS Administrator

Update from your OCDS Provincial Council:

Your Provincial Council has developed a Training Manual for the Visitation Program which was approved at the Provincial Council Meeting with the Regional Assistants in October 2018. The next step was to collect nominations for Visitation and begin the vetting process. There were insufficient nominations so Fr. Salvatore, OCD, sent out a second request. As of May 2019 there are 141 Visitation with good coverage for most districts.

The first training session was held July 13, 2019 in Ocala Florida. The next training session is proposed for late September 2019 at the Monastery in Washington DC, followed by a session in Western Pennsylvania and in the Philadelphia area.

The target implementation for the Visitation Program is shortly after the Elections in 2020.

Visitation Program:

The Program was requested by Father Salvatore, OCD, Provincial Delegate, and entails each Community in the Province to be visited once every three (3) years by an OCDS Visitation.

OCDS Visitation will be assigned so that travel would not require an overnight stay. The term for Visitation is expected to be three (3) years. As a reminder, Visitation are not intended to be "inspections" but an opportunity to offer support and encouragement.

Elections:

The OCDS Community elections will occur in 2020 so now is the time to pray and discern potential candidates for Community Offices. Now is the time to review the Statutes concerning the election process and prayerfully consider serving.

Election material will be sent out by email this year so it is important that Presidents distribute the material to Council members and the Spiritual Assistant. The materials will go out in October 2019. The first deadline for Communities is to appoint a Nominating Committee In November so it can begin its work.

Questions:

I am a council member in my community and a discussion has come up regarding statute #33: "The ceremonial scapular may be worn at community meetings....."

The questions are:

1) If someone wears a cloth scapular under their clothing and comes to the monthly meeting without wearing the ceremonial scapular, can they be charged with being disobedient (with all that this implies)?

2) Can a local council override (for lack of a better word) a statute if it so deems? Someone holds that the word "may" was unintended and is not reflective of the authentic meaning, based on the Catechesis of the Brown Scapular.

The level of focus on externals and "disobedience" has come up by members of the community, which is why I am trying to clarify this aspect of the subject.

Response:

While the statutes only say that the ceremonial scapular may be worn at meetings, I encourage you to wear it at your meetings, retreats and congresses. Most Seculars gladly do so.

If members do not wear the ceremonial scapular when together, I would not say that they were disobedient. I would question their understanding. The brown scapular is the sign of our devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and a sign of our desire for her protection. It is the habit of the Secular Order. It identifies us as Carmelites. The small scapular and the medal are for convenience, to be worn when the larger scapular is not appropriate.

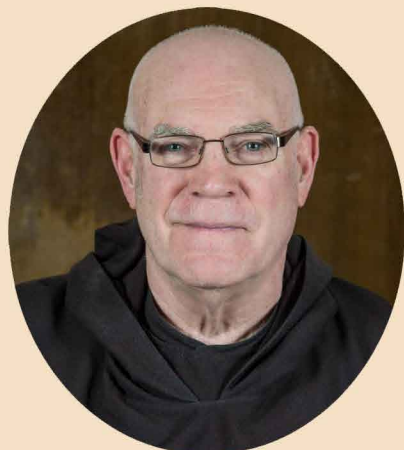
The council may determine other times when the scapular may be worn in public. The council may interpret a statute. While the council is the immediate authority in the community, the council may not over rule a statute. Special dispensations or exceptions are to come from me. Particular concerns may always be directed to me.

Fr Salvatore, OCD
Provincial Delegate
Washington Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Have a Question? Anyone can submit a question....

Contact the Provincial Council FIRST at ocds-pc-washprov@googlegroups.com

We refer questions beyond our scope directly to Fr. Salvatore Scurba.
You are assured of an authoritative response.

Rest in Peace Fr. John of the Assumption, O.C.D (John Grennon)

Born
August 31, 1946

Professed
May 1, 1991

Ordained
May 24, 1997

Died
June 29, 2019



We are grateful for the many years of service to OCDS Communities given by Father Grennon!

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All the things are passing;
God only is changeless.
Patience gains all things
Who has God wants nothing.
God alone suffices.
~ St. Teresa

Community News:

Community of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph – Elysburg, PA

The Secular Carmelites of Elysburg, PA will offer a Day of Recollection on the Blessed Mother at St. Joseph's Church in Danville, Pennsylvania on Sunday August 25, 2019 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Maria Bridy, OCDS will be the Retreat Mistress. Cost \$25. Includes luncheon. For more information or to register contact Meg Geffken, OCDS meggef@epix.net or telephone 570.925.6264 . The retreat will begin with Sunday Mass and conclude with Vespers. Special Devotions, Meditations and Presentations will be featured during the "silent" retreat. Attendance is limited to the first 20 registrants.

Greetings from the Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Discalced Carmelites Secular Order of St. John the Evangelist Church, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.



Book of Documents:

Barbara Sardella, OCDS, President of Mary Queen of Carmel, Towson, Maryland created the following index chart for the footnotes referenced in the Constitutions, as I found the footnotes difficult to find, especially those that go on for many pages. I distributed this to the members in my community, but you might find them useful to distribute to everyone.

Index to Footnotes Referenced in Constitutions

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**"I'm 60...
and vowed in the Discalced
Carmelite Secular Order**

***I'm not called to married life —
But I do have a vocation."***

By Wayne Tate, OCDS

I live at the center of a mystery. I'm pretty comfortable with mysteries, being a Catholic, and know that some of them don't need to be solved. But it can be an enigma to others when my humble mystery is hesitantly inquired about, though I do my best to provide simple answers: Yes, I'm 60 years old; no, I'm not married; and I'm not a Religious Brother, but I'm called to the Religious life. Even though I don't live in a monastery, I'm still called to live a life of holiness outside its walls.

The outside world is my monastery; I am not retired from the Secular Life. This makes it all the more challenging because I live day-to-day in a world that is full of challenges plus everyday secular living; and yet still find the time to pray the Divine Office (Morning, Evening, and Night prayers). I'm also required to follow and study the *Rule of St. Albert* and the *Constitutions* of the order.

I spend at least 30 minutes of silent prayer (Meditative, and Contemplative) in the morning, usually with a steaming hot cup of tea sitting on the front porch (no swing mind you). The Rosary isn't prayed every day, but I do manage to pray it at least several times a week. Is this worth it? "*You Betcha!*"

The *Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites* meets once a month. Some of us are married, and some are either single or divorced. And we come from all walks of life; each of us with different talents, and in some cases that talent can be shared with the community.

We have a Deacon who is our spiritual director. We attend formation classes, followed by Eucharist Adoration and Vespers. Afterward, our group ends our day with a business meeting with light snacks.



It's just great to be among people who are called to the same life as I have been called. It's important to attend all meetings. It is through the support of my Carmelite brothers and sisters that I am able to live this life as a Carmelite — Community support is very much needed and encouraged.

It's so amazing that God does listen to us when we talk to him, yes I mean he really does! Here is one of my examples: One day while driving home from a Doctor's appointment, I sat in my car in a mess of rush-hour traffic. Everyone seemed to be in such a rush, and some making not-so-nice gestures to other drivers.

In my human weakness, I told God: "*I don't think anyone really cares about anyone anymore. These times are bad and it seems as if the world is so full of hate*".

It was at that moment that the Lord revealed how wrong I was. I came to a stop at the next red light, and a young man jumps out of his car. Leaving his car door wide open, and the car still running, he ran to the middle of this 4 lane highway to assist an elderly old lady with a walker across two lanes of traffic. I then told God: "*I stand to be corrected, thank you Lord for proving me wrong*".

Like that young man, I hope as a Carmelite that my light shines brightly for the world to witness; and hopefully, bring some hope and peace — *something the world needs now*.

Resources:

International Congress, the 3rd in the series dedicated to Saint John of the Cross will be held September 2 – 8, 2019 at the CITEs-University. You can participate in person or by means of the internet. For information on the program and registration visit www.mistica.es.

International Congress on Saint John of the Cross was held May 9-10 2019 at the Teresianum. “Memory and Hope in Saint John of the Cross” In the Faculty’s web page (www.teresianum.net) there is a link to YouTube in which the conferences can be found.

