

Discalced Carmelite Secular Order Washington Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary E-Newsletter

Contact us at OCDS-PC-WASHPROV@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM

Winter-Spring 2020

From Our Provincial Delegate

While we are Easter Christians and Alleluia is our song, it feels like we are still back in Lent. The suffering around us is widespread. We are aware of those struggling with the virus and those in anguish seeing loved ones in distress. We are concerned for the grieving, the overwhelmed workers, the unemployed. And the list goes on.

Clearly we are going through the darkest of nights and the cross has fallen heavily upon us. Jesus told us that as his disciples we must carry the cross as he did. We must find redemptive value in our experience. Jesus transformed the meaning of the cross by his saving death and glorious resurrection. What was an instrument of death became the mean to life, a sign of despair became our only hope. The cross was the expression of powerlessness and folly; for us it has become the power and wisdom of God.

St John of the Cross teaches us that if we want to share the glory of Christ, we must also embrace his cross. He speaks more of the night of faith we go through when control is taken out of our hands. This dark night is the way the cross touches our lives.

St Teresa, our Holy Mother, tells us: "The Father gives according to the courage he sees in each one, and the love each has for his Majesty. He will see that whoever loves him much will be capable of suffering much for him... I myself hold that the measure to be able to bear a large or small cross is love (WP, 32, 7).

May the Lord give us the courage and love to bear the cross with him as we pass through this dark night until the light of dawn breaks through.

Fr Salvatore, OCD

Resumption of Meetings (Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

Dear Secular Carmelites,

I have heard from several communities that they are preparing to resume meetings in June. In these cases the state is permitting religious gatherings and the bishop has announced the resumption of parish masses.

This suggests that it is permissible to resume OCDS meetings. Nonetheless please make sure that any required precautions (distance between individuals, masks, etc.) are followed. Moreover, please excuse any member who is not yet comfortable with returning.

While our community meetings are an essential part of our Carmelite life, this is the time for prudence and caution. The welfare of our members remains my primary concern.

Thank you.

In the union of prayer,

Fr Salvatore, OCD
Provincial Delegate
May 11, 2020

News

- ✓ The OCDS Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and Saint Joseph invites you to a **retreat** by Maria Bridy, OCDS. September 18-20, 2022 at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pennsylvania. Cost for the full weekend retreat Friday evening to Sunday at noon is \$200. For more information or to make a reservation contact Meg Geffken meggef@epix.net or call 570.204.9031. Deadline for reservations is August 1, 2020.


- ✓ **What is a Secular Carmelite (video)**

This is a **video** that was made by French Secular Carmelites.

The subtitles are Fr. Sal's translation to the spoken French.

<http://ocds-paris.fr/contact/>

Enjoy!

- ✓ Greetings from **the Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph in Bronxville, NY**. On September 21, 2019, four of our members took significant steps in their Ascent of Mount Carmel. **Kathleen Keeley** was clothed with the Scapular, **Mary Grace Repomanta** and **Robert Diano** made the Temporary Promise, and **Helen Hanigan** made her Definitive Promise. We thank Our Lord and Our Lady for these great blessings in their lives and the life of our community.
- ✓ On November 9th, our **St. Teresa of the Andes Community** (Danvers, MA) was blessed with a visit from **Father General, Saverio Cannistrà** while he was here in the States.  Divine Providence arranged for him to be at the Danvers Carmelite Monastery (of nuns) on our annual "Ceremonies Day," and he was able to concelebrate the Mass with Fr. Len Copeland (Northeast Regional OCDS Assistant *and* our community's Spiritual Assistant). We had two individuals Clothed in the Brown Scapular and three people making First Promises.
- ✓ Greetings from **the Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph in Bronxville, NY**. On September 21, 2019, four of our members took significant steps in their Ascent of Mount Carmel. **Kathleen Keeley** was clothed with the Scapular, **Mary Grace Repomanta** and **Robert Diano** made the Temporary Promise, and **Helen Hanigan** made her Definitive Promise. We thank Our Lord and Our Lady for these great blessings in their lives and the life of our community.
- ✓ **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Discalced Carmelite Seculars, Detroit, MI**
Mark Simpson was clothed and **Michele Stieber** and **Theresa Osburn** made their 1st Promise.

NOTE: we wanted to add the photos from the Danvers Community and from the Community of Detroit. Unfortunately the file was too large to send at this time.

HELP PLEASE!

Please let us know where you get your ceremonial scapulars so we can share the information with all our communities.

Thank you in advance!

EMAIL: OCDS-PC-WASHPROV@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM

Sources of Ceremonial Scapulars

- Fr Sal is asking our members not to support the group in Colorado Springs. It had been listed in the Fall 2018 E-Newsletter.

The Carmelite Nuns of Colorado Springs are "Lefebvrists" (believe that Vatican Council II is illegitimate and invalid and do not recognize Pope Francis as the leader of the Church). They are not in communion with the Order. And, it goes to reason that, they are not in communion with the Holy Roman Catholic Church. They are not recognized as members of the Discalced Carmelite Order by the California-Arizona Province or our Order.

Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCD
Provincial Superior

- This community of nuns below originated in Mexico and is trying to raise funds to build their Monastery. Their scapulars are sold for \$35.00 Holy Trinity Monastery

Barefoot Carmelite Mothers
Carmelite Monastery
4525 West 2nd Ave.
Hialeah, FL
305-558-7122

- **OCDSROSE.com (carmwear) ----\$25.00**

Every purchase made through Living Vine contributes to the financial support for the Discalced Carmelite Seminarians & Friars in Africa . Purchases made at Living Vine On-Line is SAFE and SECURE

Questions and further assistance will be replied from e-mail at: LivingVine@cox.net or by phone at 757.880.6212

Joseph, you are a man of prayer. Help us to know the intuition of God's Will which gives us the ability to be at peace in the midst of darkness and mystery.

Teach us to find God present in the core of pain and hardship. Reveal the secret of your prayer, the prayer that sweeps beyond words, sweeping beyond horizons of the intellect, allowing our hearts to seek ever deeper union with God.

Enfold us and those we love in your prayer, Father Joseph!

Adapted from the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco