



CARMEL CONNECT

Newsletter of the OCDS Main Office



WASHINGTON PROVINCE
SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES

ocdswashprov.org

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From the Desk of the Provincial Delegate



As many of you have noticed, we have been hard at work in the Main Office getting settled while at the same time addressing ongoing needs and dealing with the annual submission of Community Rosters and collection of Provincial Dues. Because the electronic Rosters are to be merged into our database, it is imperative that they be compatible with our system. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding if you were asked to resubmit the Roster in order for this to be accomplished; we are all in this together! Other areas of enrichment that

need update and review are:

- Discernment of Vocations to the OCDS and the making of Promises
- Best practices regarding the care of, and outreach to, our Extended Members
- Discussion and discernment regarding small communities with few new vocations and aging members
- Best practices regarding implementation of the Provincial Formation Program
- Financial accountability, transparency and stability of community treasuries

A Blessed Holy Week and glorious Easter Season to all; the community of friars at the Brighton monastery is praying for you and your loved ones.

Your brother in Carmel,

Fr. Leonard Copeland, OCD



Easter Blessings

Meet Your New Provincial Delegate and Regional Assistants for 2020-2023

As you know, Fr. Michael Berry, our Provincial, appointed Fr. Leonard Copeland to serve the Washington Province OCDS as Provincial Delegate and Regional Assistant for both the Northeast and Florida Regions. Fr. Donald Brick was appointed Regional Assistant to the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic Regions. (For organizational charts that you can download and print out, click here: www.ocdswashprov.org/organization.) Here is an "introduction" to the friars who are serving our OCDS communities during this triennium.

Fr. Leonard Copeland, OCD: Provincial Delegate and Regional Assistant (Northeast and Florida)



Fr. Leonard Copeland, OCD (Fr. Leonard of the Sorrowful Mother) was born in Brighton, MA and was ordained a priest on June 3, 1967. Shortly thereafter he was assigned to St. Florian (a Carmelite parish) in West Milwaukee, WI, where he served for 11 years in different capacities: as Superior, Pastor and Spiritual Assistant to the OCDS community there. He also taught religion classes at Mercy and Cathedral High Schools and was very involved with the parish elementary school and Youth Ministry. From there he was assigned to Hubertus, WI, again serving at various times as Superior, Pastor and Spiritual Assistant to the OCDS community at Holy Hill. After six years in the Midwest, he was elected Superior of the Brookline, MA monastery and moved back "home." When that monastery was sold, the friars moved to Brighton, MA and he became the Catholic Chaplain at Brandeis University in

Waltham. At the same time, he served as Spiritual Assistant to the two OCDS communities in Brighton as well as one in Springfield, MA. In 1987, he was asked to be the Spiritual Assistant to the new OCDS community that was being formed in Danvers, MA and held that position until 1993, at which time he was transferred back to Saint Florian to serve as Pastor. During the next 17 years, he served as the Catholic Chaplain to the Milwaukee Fire Department, Consultor to the Archbishop of Milwaukee, and Pastor Designate to two combined Catholic grade schools as well as being a Pastor to two parishes. He was able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Florian Parish before he left Milwaukee in 2011 to return to Brighton. Upon his arrival, he was appointed Spiritual Assistant to the two OCDS communities in Danvers, MA. By appointment of Cardinal Seán O'Malley, he served on the Presbyteral Council for the Archdiocese of Boston for six years. In May 2017 he was appointed as the OCDS Regional Assistant for the Northeast Region and in 2020 was appointed to serve as Provincial Delegate and Regional Assistant to the Northeast and Florida Regions. He also assists pastorally at local parishes when needed. Over the years, he has been very involved with the OCDS: giving Retreats, Days of Recollection, and attending and speaking at OCDS Congresses.

Fr. Donald Brick, OCD: Regional Assistant (Mid-Atlantic and Midwest)

(Fr. Donald of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary)

I am from what is known as the "Holy Land" (or Michigan). I grew up in Auburn, MI and studied at Ferris State where I received my bachelor's degree. I entered Carmel through the hands of our Blessed Mother in the year of 1992 and celebrated 25 years of profession on July 16, 2019. I was ordained to the priesthood on October 14th in the Jubilee Year of 2000.

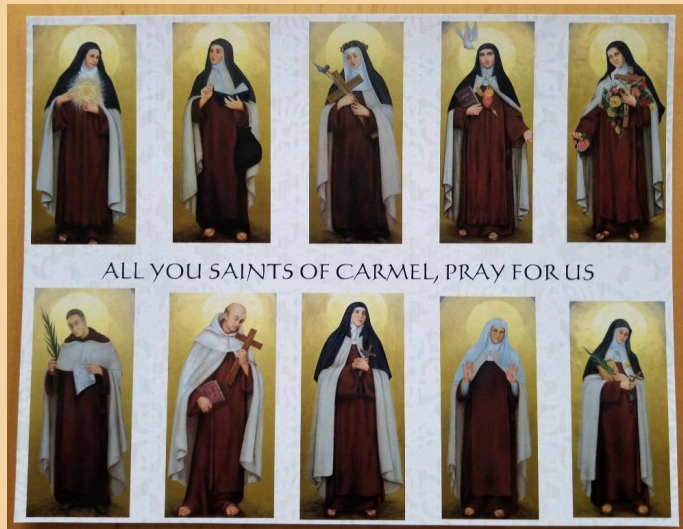
I currently reside at the monastery in Brighton, MA. I served as superior and rector at the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Hubertus, WI. I have organized events for youth, young adults, and men's group and also one on spiritual guidance. I have been involved in spiritual direction with the OCDS for many years as a Spiritual Assistant to many groups.

I have helped young and old to know about the spirit of Carmel. My favorite retreat I have given is on Mary and the Eucharist, although I am currently writing one on the Holy Spirit and it is turning out to be a joy.



New Items for Sale in the OCDS Store

“All You Carmelite Saints” Print



We are very happy to offer you a lovely art print depicting ten of our illustrious Carmelite Saints – including our *three* Doctors of the Church: St. Teresa of Jesus, St. John of the Cross and St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus! For more details, and to purchase the high quality print online, visit the “Store” on our Provincial website at www.ocdswashprov.org/store/p/carmelite-saints-print. (Of course, you can also purchase it with a check and snail mail, but it will take longer.)

Promise Folder



Treat yourself, or the newly Professed, to a lovely embossed “leatherette” folder commemorating the happy occasion(s) of one’s Profession(s)! Each folder contains a beautiful image of Our Lady offering the Brown Scapular to our Holy Parents (St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross) and a parchment with the words of our Promise, that can be filled in with information recording the dates of both the First and Final Promise. A unique gift that will be treasured by the recipient! To order, click here: www.ocdswashprov.org/store/p/promise-folder

Year of St. Joseph [Protector of Carmel] Bookmark



Celebrate the Year of St. Joseph with this lovely bookmark, affordably priced so that everyone in your community can have one! This image of “St. Joseph, Protector of Carmel,” is taken from an original painting located in the Carmel of Lafayette LA, by generous permission of the community there. Limited quantity available; be sure to place your order so as not to be disappointed. To order, click here: www.ocdswashprov.org/store/bookmarks

Carmelite Digital Library (CDL) Available for Purchase/Download

“What is the Carmelite Digital Library and what can it do for me?” The CDL is a valuable resource of which you may be unaware. It is a digital collection of the all the writings of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross in two English translations (Kavanaugh/Rodriguez and Peers) as well as a Spanish translation, that you can download directly onto your computer (both MAC and PC versions available). The CDL is easy to use for research, leading a class, or preparing a talk on the writings and teachings of Teresa and John. So if you’ve ever wondered, “Where did this quote from Holy Mother/Holy Father come from?” --- this product will be invaluable to find the answer! To order, click here for PC version: www.ocdswashprov.org/store/p/cdl-for-pc and here for MAC version: www.ocdswashprov.org/store/p/cdl-for-mac

OCDS Store Continued.....

2017 Council Workshop DVD-set

"Everything old is new again." The Main Office has received several requests from new (and re-elected) Council members asking if the 2017 "OCDS Workshop for Council Members" DVD set is still available for purchase. (The ones that were issued for the last triennial election.) Since the advice/information contained in the set hasn't changed, we are again offering this set of two DVDs (totaling 4 hrs. of presentations) for sale at the same 2017 price: \$10 postage paid. "Timeless" information, perfect for all new Council members and Seculars in leadership positions.

See website to order online at www.ocdswashprov.org/store/p/cd-set.

Topics include:

The Beauty of the OCDS Vocation & the Call to Leadership: Fr. Salvatore Scieurba, OCD
What Constitutes an "Ideal" Council: Loretta Gallagher, OCDS
Important Issues a Council Will Face: Loretta Gallagher, OCDS
Formation in the OCDS: Sharon Beaver, OCDS
Common Inhibitors to a Well-Functioning Council: Fr. Paul Fohlin, OCD



NEWS

Change of OCDS Provincial Council Membership

The composition of your six-member Provincial Council (commonly known as the "PC") was recently changed. Three members completed their terms, three members will continue to serve until 2024 and three new members were added. The Provincial Delegate, on behalf of the entire OCDS of the Washington Province, would like to publicly thank the three members who will now enjoy a well-deserved "retirement":

Angela Runner (President): Louisville KY - Holy Spirit Community

Susan Gores: St. Paul MN Community

Toni Hagey: Kittanning PA Community

The three new members, serving until 2027, are:

Wendy Palanza: Barrington RI Community

Mary Valenti: Detroit MI Community

Russell Zimmer: Bunnell FL Community

The three members who will continue serving until 2024 are:

Theresa Lemke (President): Janesville WI Community

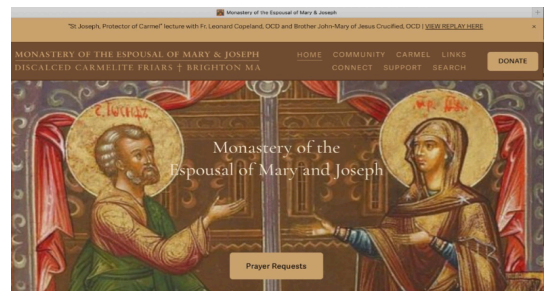
Michael Alley: Frederick MD Community

Laura Iwan: Schenectady NY Community

These OCDS selflessly serve you, the membership, with their time and talent throughout the year, donating many, many hours of their valuable time. All are to be commended and prayed for! To contact the PC, please use this email address: ocds-pc-washprov@googlegroups.com.

New Website for the Brighton, MA Monastery of Friars

Did you know that the friars' community in Brighton, MA (where the OCDS Main Office is now located) now has a beautiful website? Visit www.brightonfriarsocd.org for information on the community.



Screen shot from homepage of www.brightonfriarsocd.org

New Online Resources - Free to Download

Carmel Clarion Index Available Online



Check out the newest resource section on the Provincial website entitled, "Clarion Index" which you can find at www.ocdswashprov.org/clarion. You can read the history of how this valuable Index of all past Carmel Clarion issues came to be, access the Index itself, and even download a PDF version of the Index for yourself or your community. The story of how Elizabeth Pantas (with the help of other OCDS) helped make this vision become a reality is truly inspiring. A heartfelt "thank you" to our amazing Webmaster, Mary Stewart, OCDS, for figuring out a way to translate the data involved from one (antiquated) format to another so that it could be published on our website.

And Speaking of Carmel Clarion Articles ...

We recently received an offer from two *extremely generous and talented* OCDS, Ken Norman and Vicky Badics (both from the Ann Arbor, MI Community of Our Lady of Victory), to begin the *herculean* project of scanning *all the actual Clarion articles*, complete with "bookmarks," so as to make them available online for all !!! Our talented Webmaster is adding the articles to the website as they become available, so check back often. A most heartfelt THANK YOU to Ken and Vicky for their incredibly generous gifts of massive amounts of their time and talent to provide the world with this tremendous Carmelite legacy of knowledge and wisdom.

Carmelite Vocations Prayer Card available

Thanks to Mike Alley, OCDS, there is a nice prayer card containing the names of our Carmelite men currently in formation. It is available as a *free download* on the Provincial website (under "Resources") so you can print out on cardstock, cut out and place in your breviary. Let's offer our united prayers for our future Carmelite friars! Find the card along with directions for printing at www.ocdswashprov.org/prayer-for-vocations.

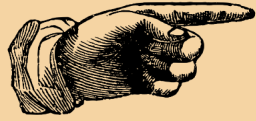


• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

FYI ...

Did you know that, in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, our members are known as "**Secular Carmelites**" while in the O.Carm. branch (commonly referred to as the "Order of Carmel" -- not the Teresian "Order of *Discalced Carmelites*"), lay members of the Order are referred to as "**Lay Carmelites**"? (Neither branch uses the terminology of "Third Order Carmelites" anymore.) A small distinction ... but an important one.

Please Notice This



From the
Main Office

Request for Appointment/Reappointment of a Spiritual Assistant

Please be sure to read our Provincial Delegate's recent letter on Spiritual Assistants, dated March 19, 2021. The new policy applies to ALL Spiritual Assistants, even those currently serving in that capacity. All Spiritual Assistants must be appointed by the Provincial Delegate (Const. 42 & 44) and for a specified term of service (*Pastoral Care of the Secular Order*, 2006). Please see the Provincial website under "Publications, Provincial Delegate" to read the letter if you have not done so already (www.ocdswashprov.org/provincial-delegate). The actual Request form can be found on the website under "Forms" (www.ocdswashprov.org/forms) and must be accompanied by the two required documents. **Every community with a current Spiritual Assistant or a proposed Spiritual Assistant MUST send in this request by June 1, 2021.**

Delegation Needed for Ceremonies (Communities currently without a Spiritual Assistant)

If your community does not currently have an officially assigned Spiritual Assistant and your Ceremonies (Clothings and Promises) are coming up, don't forget that **you need to seek delegation from the Provincial Delegate for a priest or deacon to preside at the celebration.** Use the "Request for Delegation for Ceremonies" form, found at www.ocdswashprov.org/forms, and please be sure to submit it to the Main Office two weeks in advance of the Ceremonies.

New Email for Submission of Revised Forms

Please remember to use the NEW email address dedicated just for submission of forms: ocdsforms@gmail.com. (The old address, ocdswashmembers@gmail.com, is no longer in use.) Also, please use **ONLY THE REVISED FORMS** found online at www.ocdswashprov.org/forms. The new forms were revised to include more information and better clarity. **ALWAYS USE THE FORM THAT IS CURRENTLY POSTED ON THE PROVINCIAL WEBSITE.** Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

And Speaking of Forms ...

The "Application to the Aspirancy" form DOES NOT have to be sent to the Main Office because we are not entering an individual's name into the database until they are clothed with the ceremonial Brown Scapular and become part of the community, which is at the "time of admission to formation." (Statute 31) [A person becomes a member of the ORDER upon making the First Promise. Const. 23c in the BOD] The Aspirancy Year is a period of discernment on both the part of the individual and the community as to whether or not there is a possible vocation to Carmel; the Aspirant is free to leave at any time - no commitment.

Devotional Names in Carmel

Councils: please make sure you are in compliance with our Carmelite legislation when you approve devotional names in Carmel at the time of the Temporary Promise (*not* the reception of the Scapular). Statute 39: "When making the *Temporary Promise*, the candidate's *baptismal name* is retained to which the candidate may add a devotional name." Therefore, someone named "Susan" may choose "Susan of (devotional name)" but not "St. Joseph the Worker." (In other words, she can choose "SUSAN of St. Joseph the Worker," but not simply "St. Joseph the Worker.")

Annual Budgets and Monthly Community Dues

We are now asking each community to institute the requirements for budget preparation and community dues for financial transparency, accountability and stability of the community's treasury. A reminder that "The treasurer is to present a report of the funds to the Council every six months, to the community and the Provincial ... once a year." (Const. 54 in the BOD)

Spiritual Assistants Who Are OCDS

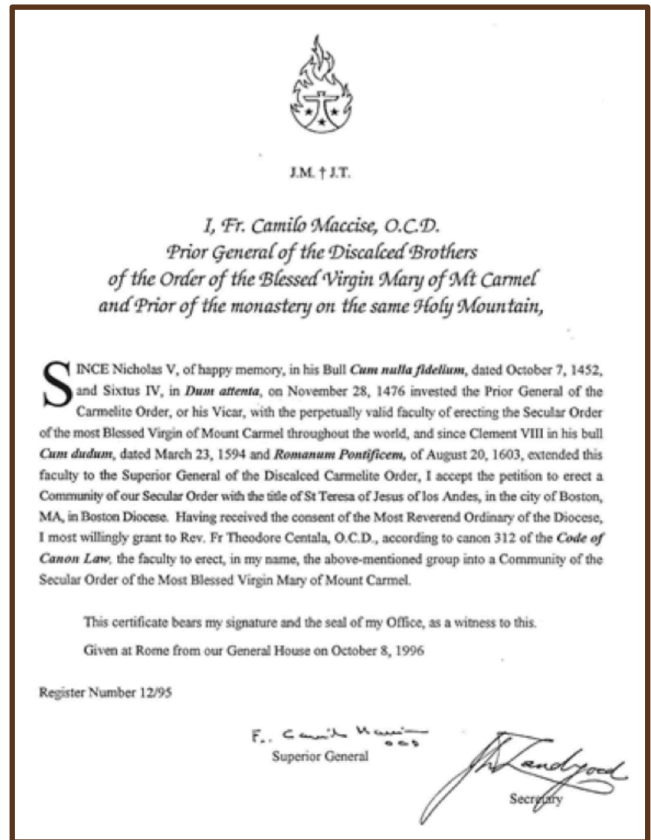
Some communities have Spiritual Assistants (usually diocesan priests or deacons) who are also members of the OCDS. If this is the case in your community, then, yes ... the priest or deacon is still responsible for paying Provincial Dues *as a member of an OCDS community* -- even if he is serving as your community's Spiritual Assistant.

Documentation of Canonical Status

The Main Office is in the process of documenting the canonical status of each community currently identified as "Canonically Established" (CE) in the Province. With the assistance of Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, General Delegate for the OCDS, to date we have *documented proof* for 86 of the 93 communities (92%) and currently identified as "Canonically Established" and now have the actual dates of their canonical establishments in Rome. We will be checking with Fr. Alzinir on the status of the remaining 7 communities in question and hope to, eventually, post the scanned images of the official documents online for all to view. Stay tuned!

Here's an example of what an official canonical establishment document looks like, in case you have never seen one. Over the years, it has changed somewhat -- older ones are in Latin -- but all documents have the same elements: a dated decree from Rome, signed by the Superior General, with the city, state and diocese mentioned by name.

And what, exactly, does it mean to be "canonically established"? From Fr. Alzinir: "A *canonically established* community, after the death of the last member, has 100 years remaining for its validity. Normally the community remains inactive; in some cases, after many years, it can start again with the same canonical status, but having to go through the steps as if it were a new community." If anyone has a copy of the canonical document for any of the 7 missing communities, please contact the Main Office ASAP: the two Brighton MA communities (probably originally named *Roxbury*), Morristown NJ, Parlin NJ, Orchard Park NY (probably originally named *Buffalo*), Saline MI (probably named *Ann Arbor*), Akron OH (probably Cleveland) and Westerville OH.



Do I need permission from a Council Member to call the Main Office?

NO! The Main Office exists to serve YOU, the members of the OCDS. Anyone is free to call the Main Office at *any time* with *any question*. The Main Office number is 617-851-8584.

Speaking of the Main Office, who comprises "the Staff"?

One of the best kept "secrets" in the Province is the actual composition of the "Staff" at the Main Office. The "Main Office" consists of one Provincial Delegate, Fr. Leonard Copeland, OCD and his sole employee, Loretta Gallagher, OCDS. We want to thank all those who sent Christmas greetings, good wishes, spiritual enrollments and assurances of prayer to "Fr. Len, Loretta and the Main Office Staff"!!!

Why isn't there a place to record "Vows" as a "Status category" on the Roster?

Statute 45f of our OCDS legislation states: "The vows are strictly voluntary. **The promise** makes one a full member of the Order. **The vows do not change that status.**" Therefore, there is no need to record a Vow "status" on the Roster since it is a *private choice* on the part of a Secular. All other designations (Aspirant, Scapular, Temporary Promise, Definitive Promise) *change the status of membership* of an individual in the OCDS. The vows do not.

How do we show our gratitude to the Spiritual Assistant if s/he refuses the stipend?

You should budget a stipend for the Spiritual Assistant in any given calendar year. If s/he does not want to accept it, perhaps you can ask her/him to designate a charity/organization that you can donate to in her/his name. We want our Spiritual Assistants to be gratefully acknowledged for their service to our communities in some way each year.



Should our community continue to send mail to elderly Extended Members in Memory Care Units, assisted living communities, nursing homes or those who have lost their sight?

Statute 12 states: "Definitively Promised members who become homebound due to age or illness continue to be full extended members of the local community. *The community will show fraternal charity to these valued members.*" Assuming a mailing address is available, a community should send Extended Members greeting cards during the Christmas and Easter Seasons, at the very least. (Remembering a birthday and other special days -- Feast Days, Anniversary of Promises -- would be nice, too.) If the member can no longer read or comprehend the greeting for her/himself, then at least the family and staff will be made aware that the individual belongs to a loving Carmelite Community and that the Community *cares* about the individual by remembering her/him throughout the year with prayer. "The president ... should ... *coordinate* contacts with those members of the community who, because of age, illness, distance, or other reasons, are not able to attend meetings." (Const. 50 in the BOD) It might be a good practice for your community to establish an Outreach Committee and have the Chairperson create a schedule for the assignment of correspondence to our valued Extended Members.

Can a "receiving community" allow an individual to receive the Scapular or make Promises before the Transfer paperwork is completed?

No. An individual must always have *formally been accepted first* as a member of the community in which s/he makes a commitment (i.e., receives the Scapular or makes a Promise.) "Until the member's application has been approved by the receiving community, the individual remains a member of his/her original community." (Statute 83b)

Is the Acceptance of Visitors and Transfers Still on Hold Due to COVID?

Unfortunately, yes. Both of these programs require discernment on the part of the individual *and* the community. Only "after a sufficient time has passed for the ... community to evaluate the potential new member" can application for admittance to a community (either for the Aspirancy or for membership) take place. (Statute 83b) The "**minimum three in-person meetings**" requirement must still be met in both of these cases, *but with the community in attendance*. Since *no one is required to attend meetings yet* due to the virus, *even if voluntary in-person meetings are an option* for some communities, a Visitor or Transfer cannot get a true picture of what the community is like or how it functions *until the community can truly meet safely*. The pandemic has disrupted every facet of our lives, even with regards to membership in the OCDS. Potential Visitors should be advised to use this time of waiting to peruse our extensive Provincial website in order to become familiar with our:

- OCDS legislation
- Writings of our Carmelite Saints (via ICS Publications)
- Provincial Formation Program and all that it entails
- Liturgy of the Hours rubrics
- Links to ICS, podcasts, stories of our Carmelite saints, our Kenya Mission, etc.
- "Carmel Connect" Provincial electronic newsletter
- Documents from Rome and the Province pertinent to the OCDS
- Carmelite Proper Calendar
- Province's organizational charts
- Etc., etc.



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