



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

With the abundance of information that we constantly receive from multiple sources regarding the world, national, and local events, it is easy to question the veracity, accuracy, and objectivity of the news. Finding these elements lacking, we can tend to become frightened, concerned, pessimistic, angry, isolated, and uninvolved -- not knowing what to do, or how to think, about the world in which we live. The current political atmosphere certainly does not provide much encouragement in this regard, either.

I thought it would be appropriate to present a different perspective, namely a Christian perspective, of how we might respond. Pope Francis instructs us:

"Don't be taken in by the messages of hate or terror around us. Instead make new friends. Give of your time and always show concern for those who ask for your help. Be brave and go against the tide; be friends of Jesus, Who is the Prince of PEACE." [Message for the Jubilee of Mercy to Young People; 2016] "[God] does not limit himself merely to affirming his love but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviors that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing, and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel." [*Misericordiae Vultus*, 2015]

We are being reminded that, as his OCDS disciples, we must feel responsible for one another. Let us open our hearts to those living on the outermost fringe of society. We all know about the many uncertain, violent, abusive and painful situations that exist in our world this very day. Let us not fall into indifference or monotonous routines that prevent us from discovering the wonderful new light, joy and hope available to us through the Holy Spirit. Let us recognize the cry of the poor and the suffering and respond to it in our lives to the best of our ability. Let their cry become our own so as to reflect the words of Jesus, the Good Shepherd: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you ... For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mt. 11:28-30)

You may think that your small efforts might be in vain but, like the Servants of God -- St. Teresa, St. John, and all the Carmelite Saints -- please put your trust in God, for it is God's LOVE, shared, that transforms the world.

Let us be a source of that transformation by proclaiming: "Speak, Lord, for I -- your servant -- am listening."

I bid each of you on your journey of life, Shalom.

Father Leonard
OCDS Provincial Delegate



**REQUIESCAT IN PACE,
DEAR CARMELITE FRIARS ...**



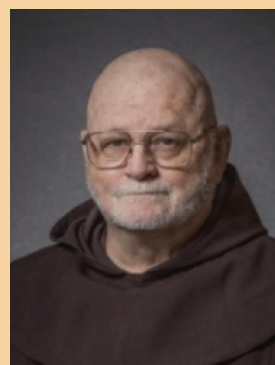
Fr. Anthony Haglof, OCD



Fr. Anthony Haglof, OCD passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully, on April 19, 2022. He was professed as a Discalced Carmelite friar on August 15, 1965 and ordained a priest on May 13, 1971. His funeral Mass was celebrated at the Washington, DC monastery, where he resided, on Saturday, April 23rd and he was buried on April 28th at the friars' cemetery at Our Lady, Help of Christians Monastery (Holy Hill). Fr. Anthony served as Spiritual Assistant to several OCDS Communities and gave many Retreats and Days of Recollection to Secular Carmelites over the years. He was active in interfaith dialogue and had published articles on spiritual psychology and East-West relations in national and Carmelite periodicals. At one time he also served as Prior of the Brighton Monastery and as Director of the friars' hermitage in Hinton, West Virginia (now closed). We thank God for Father Anthony's life and ministry and for the many ways he served the Order during his lifetime.



Fr. Regis Jordan, OCD



Fr. Regis Jordan, OCD entered Eternal Life on June 14, 2022. He was born on March 25, 1936, professed as a Discalced Carmelite friar on August 15, 1957 and ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1964. His funeral Mass was celebrated on June 17th at the Washington, DC monastery, where he resided for many years. Interment took place at the friars' cemetery at Our Lady, Help of Christians Monastery (Holy Hill) in Hubertus, WI on June 21st. Fr. Regis served as Spiritual Assistant to several OCDS Communities and also served as Regional Provincial Delegate to the OCDS for many years. He was very generous in sharing his Carmelite knowledge and wisdom with others via retreats, seminars, published articles and as Director of Carmel Clarion Communications. The OCDS are greatly indebted to him for his leadership and guidance in the Province. May he now enjoy, for all Eternity, the loving embrace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whom he served so well while on earth. We are grateful to God for Fr. Regis' legacy of service to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites.

NEW ROSTER SYSTEM IN PLACE

We are happy to report that all communities in the Province have successfully established the new, required Community gmail accounts which enables them to access, edit and store the Community Roster electronically. Communities are finding it much easier to update the Roster electronically and are happy to have the ability to access and edit their own Roster on an ongoing basis. Here are some common Q&As that have surfaced:

† WHO MAY HAVE ACCESS TO THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNITY ROSTER?

It is up to each Council to determine who may have access to the Community Roster. The password for the Community gmail account must be given to at least two people on the Council for safekeeping. Please be sure to keep the password secure and available at all times.

† CAN COMMUNITIES USE THE NEW, ASSIGNED COMMUNITY GMAIL ACCOUNT FOR OCDS BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE OTHER THAN THE ROSTER?

Yes, of course! Councils (not individuals) should determine how and when to use the new community gmail address (OCDS + Community ID code + @gmail.com). Caution: Remember that anyone with the password to this gmail address will have access to not only emails, but also the Community Roster.

† DO WE STILL NEED TO SEND A HARD COPY OF THE ROSTER TO THE MAIN OFFICE?

No. With the new electronic system in place, there is no need to print the Roster or mail it to the Main Office.

ON THE TOPIC OF MAIN OFFICE FORMS ...

In an effort to continually improve documentation in the Main Office, there have been some changes – many of which were recommended by OCDS -- with regards to Forms. Here are some important things to remember:

- Always use the Form that is currently offered for use on the OCDS website under "Resources." We spend much time, energy and thought into revising Forms for a reason. The Main Office will no longer accept any Forms that are old or out-of-date.
- Two Forms have been completely "retired" due to the fact that communities can now make these changes on their electronic Main Office Roster on their own without having to notify the Main Office any longer: the "Change of Information" and "Notice of Deceased Member." (See article on "Necrology" on page 7.)
- The following Forms no longer need to be sent to the Main Office, either electronically or via hard copy, but records should be kept in the community files, either digital or hard copy.
 - Change of Information
 - Leave of Absence
 - Extension of First Promise Formation
 - Extension of Final Promise Formation
 - Extended Member Status
 - Transfer Between OCDS Communities
 - Notice of Deceased Member
 - Request for Voluntary Withdrawal
 - Application to the Aspirancy
 - Request to Begin Discernment to Make Vows

Please Notice This



Updates & FAQ from the Main Office

PLEASE DO NOT TEXT THE MAIN OFFICE

The Main Office does not accept texting as a means of communication. You may call (617-851-8584), email (ocdsmainoffice@gmail.com) or physically write (166 Foster St., Brighton, MA, 02135) the Main Office in order to contact us



MID-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT DUE TO COUNCIL

Don't forget: Mid-year Treasurer's Reports are due to the Council of each community every six months (June and December reports), as per Const. 54 in the BOD. The Form (not fillable) may be found on the OCDS website under "Resources" under "Local Community Financial Reports." It is a best practice to also provide this Report to the community. Please DO NOT send the Mid-Year Treasurer's Report to the Main Office; Const. 54 requires *only the Year-End Treasurer's Report* to be sent to the Main Office.

ON THE SUBJECT OF "ABSENCES"

Now that communities are back to meeting in person, if a person is not *physically present* at a monthly community meeting, s/he is to be marked absent. "Attending virtually" does not constitute a "presence" at the community meeting.

COMMUNITY WEBSITES

Please notify the Main Office if/when your community establishes a website. That way we can provide the link on the OCDS webpage so the public can become acquainted with you and can contact your community directly via email.

IS IT EVER PERMISSIBLE FOR A COMMUNITY TO "CAP" MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS?

New members are the lifeblood of the Discalced Carmelite Order. Communities should always be open to the Holy Spirit's call for new vocations to Carmel and, thus, to new members.

CLARIFICATION ON AGE LIMITS

Statute 2a states: "Practicing Roman Catholics, who are in full communion with the Church, may be admitted to the Secular Order provided they are **ordinarily** between 18 to 65 years of age." These age guidelines can be interpreted very generously and, assuming the Council has no objection, anyone of serious intent should at least be given the opportunity to discern a vocation to Carmel. There is no reason to preclude the Holy Spirit from calling a soul, who can meet all the requirements for membership, to Carmel in their senior years!

WHAT IS "ONGOING FORMATION"?

In the OCDS, the term "Ongoing Formation" refers to the Formation that the **Fully Professed** receive in community, for the rest of their life, after they have made their Final Promise. (See the section on "Ongoing Formation" in the BOD, p.289, for more information on this topic.)

Ongoing Formation classes should not be open to anyone other than the Fully Professed members of the community. The term should not be used to refer to a Spiritual Assistant's talk (which everyone in the community is entitled to listen to, including Visitors) or anything else other than the Formation studies of the Fully Professed.

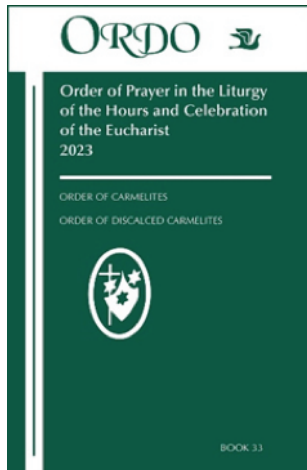
More from the Main Office

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY REGISTER REQUIRED BY OCDS LEGISLATION AND HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM THE COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP ROSTER?

Our OCDS legislation requires communities to keep and maintain accurate local records.

The **COMMUNITY REGISTER**: "A basic community register must contain, at a minimum, a membership roster with contact information. It should also contain a record of admissions, promises, vows, dismissals, deaths, transfers and devotional names taken, if any. This information must be kept as a common document that can easily be reviewed." (Statute 66) "The Secretary of the Council has the responsibility of keeping up to date the register of the community, recording elections, admissions, promises and dismissals." (Const. 52 in the BOD) Please make sure that your community maintains an accurate Register. The Register can be an electronic spreadsheet, a Word document, a physical book with handwritten records, a 3-ring binder with printed pages, etc. -- whatever works best for the community.

The **COMMUNITY ROSTER** (Statute 66): The official Main Office Community Roster is now totally electronic (accessible only by the community gmail address and the password) and it is the responsibility of each community to maintain the Roster for themselves. The electronic Roster must be updated with current data and checked for accuracy, ready for review by the Main Office, by Jan. 31st of each year. As you know, the Community Roster does not contain any significant dates in a member's life, only name/address/phone number/status and possible leadership position. Important dates in the life of an OCDS are part of the community's historical record and belong in the Register.



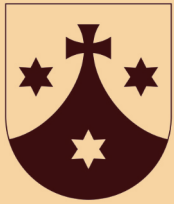
THE CARMELITE ORDO: A WONDERFUL RESOURCE

Quite often, the Main Office will receive questions regarding which Feast Days we Carmelites should be using and what to do in cases where a Carmelite Feast Day falls on a Sunday or conflicts with a Solemnity. (Transferred or overlooked entirely?) The Carmelite Ordo can be an invaluable resource for individuals, communities and Districts in providing definitive answers. Each year, Paulist Press publishes the Ordo for the Carmelite Order in the U.S. (both OCD and O.Carm. Branches). You can pre-order your copy of the Ordo, with shipment expected in October. Visit the OCDS website and use the last entry under "LINKS" to order the 2023 Ordo-Carmelites. (Or just use this link:

<https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/202333/ordo-33--carmelites-2023.aspx>)

NOTE: The Ordo contains the Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist along with page references for the daily readings, outline of Mass and LOH, profile of Saints, pastoral notes, and necrology. It DOES NOT contain the actual prayers/texts for Feast Days; those are to be found in a Carmelite Proper or online via the link under "Saints" then "Proper Offices."

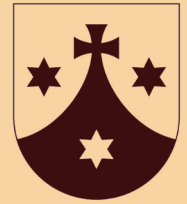
<https://carmelitequotes.blog/discalced-carmelite-calendar/>



ELEMENTS OF A MEETING:

WHAT CAN, AND CANNOT, BE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERS

We have had several inquiries as to what elements constitute a typical OCDS monthly meeting. The following guidelines are provided here.



Is it OK for a community to require that members meet on two different dates/times a month?

No. It is understood that a member of the OCDS is only required to attend one meeting a month (as referred to in the Ratio and the Provincial Formation Program – Formation is based on a monthly Formation program), with the meeting containing the following elements (according to Statute 7):

- **Communal prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours**, either Morning or Evening Prayer
- **Formation Class** (one hour in duration) with separate classes offered for each of the current Formation levels:
 - Aspirancy (Curriculum according to Formation Program of the Province)
 - First Promise Preparation (Year I-Curriculum according to Formation Program of the Province)
 - First Promise Preparation (Year II-Way of Perfection)
 - Final Promise Preparation (Year I-Interior Castle)
 - Final Promise Preparation (Year II-Story of a Soul)
 - Final Promise Preparation (Year III-Ascent of Mt. Carmel)
 - Ongoing Formation (choice of book TBD by the Fully Professed themselves)
- **Fellowship** (approximately 20-30 mins.)
- **Business Meeting** (approximately 15-20 mins.)
- **Mental prayer (if feasible) as a community** (15-30 mins.)

In addition, though the Statute does not explicitly address the following topics, it is a strongly recommended practice of the Province that:

- The monthly meeting should generally be about 4 hours long.
- There should be ongoing public reading from the Book of Documents. (10-15 mins. each meeting)
- If desired and approved by the Council, a spiritual talk/presentation may be given to the whole community by the Spiritual Assistant (if applicable) or a Guest Speaker invited by the Council. Council approval is necessary for any other individuals to address the community.
- Attendance at any event outside of the monthly meeting cannot be required. (This includes Mass, the rosary, Retreats, Days of Recollection, May Processions, other devotional practices, social activities (parties), talks, presentations, etc.) Attendance at such events can be encouraged, but attendance is purely optional. Participation (or lack of) should not be taken into consideration when evaluating candidates. If a community wishes to offer these optional activities, they may do so, but should schedule them before or after the regularly scheduled meeting with optional attendance being understood.

FELLOWSHIP IS IMPORTANT

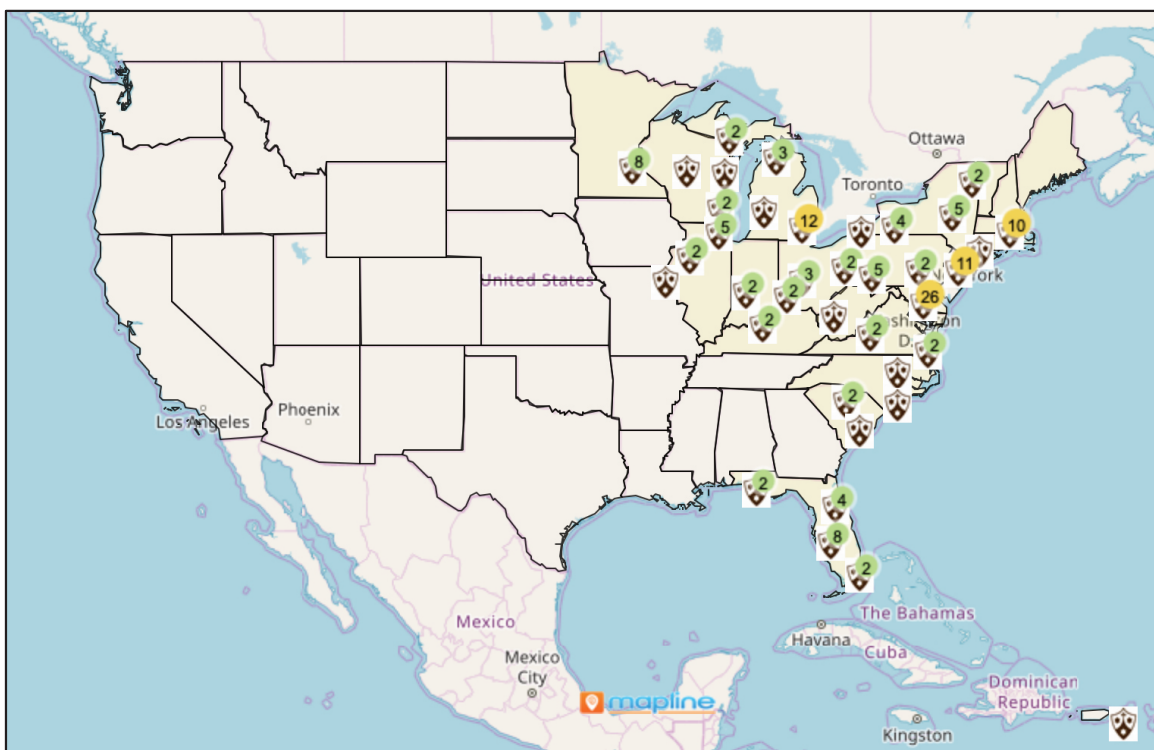
A very important part of any OCDS meeting is when the community enjoys a time of fellowship (mistakenly referred to as "refreshment time," "coffee break," "social time," etc.), which should be about 20-30 mins. You can read all about the vital importance of this topic in [*Welcome to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites*](#) (Fr. Aloysius Deeney), pp. 94-95. In his words, "... fellowship is actually part of formation or community." Please be sure to use the word "Fellowship" in the agenda of your community meeting, as the concept is integral to our understanding of the communal aspect of our OCDS way of life.

******* WEBSITE UPDATES *******

NEW ADDITION TO WEBSITE: MAP OF COMMUNITIES IN THE PROVINCE

There is now an interactive map of our 145 OCDS communities online! Go to the OCDS website (www.ocdswashprov.org) and look under "Organization" then "Map of the Province" to view the geographic location of our communities. Hover the cursor over the Carmelite shield to view Community ID code and location. Some cities have multiple communities so you would need to zoom in closer to view the individual communities. This will make it much easier to visualize distances between communities. Check it out! Here is a direct link:

<https://www.ocdswashprov.org/map-of-communities>



ANOTHER NEW ADDITION TO WEBSITE: NECROLOGY

The Necrology of members of the OCDS in our Province, who entered Eternal Life from November 2020 to November 2021, has been posted to the website under "Resources" and can be downloaded and printed: See <https://www.ocdswashprov.org/necrology>

Communities are no longer required to send a "Notice of Deceased Member" Form to the Main Office. Communities should now keep a Necrology of members who pass away (name and date of death) in the Community Register. (Record-keeping can be in the form of a physical notebook, Word document, Excel spreadsheet, etc.). Each October, the Main Office will ask for the Necrology so that all deceased members will be remembered by name during Mass at the Brighton Monastery on the Commemoration of All Carmelite Souls, Nov. 15th. In addition, because communities now have access to their electronic Community Rosters at all times and are responsible for keeping the Roster up to date, deceased members' information should be removed from the Roster.

SERVANT OF GOD: VICTOR MARTINEZ, OCD

There is a new section under "Saints" on the OCDS website: the biography of Victor Martinez (1925-2012) – a Secular Carmelite from Spain whose cause for canonization has been introduced. Check it out by going to the Washington Province website, ocdswashprov.org, click on "Saints," and scroll down to "Servant of God: Victor Martinez, OCD."

BEST PRACTICE

BEST PRACTICE FOR RECORDING ATTENDANCE

It is best to take attendance during the "Business" portion of the monthly meeting by having the Secretary conduct a personal "roll call" of each member's name, requiring an individual response from each member present. This monthly practice emphasizes, more clearly, the communal aspect of our vocation with the added benefit of affirming the physical presence of each member in attendance. In addition, this method has other benefits:

- It assures that all members (especially Aspirants and Transfers) have the opportunity to associate a "name with a face"
- The repetitive action of calling out the names each month facilitates familiarity among the members over time, thus fostering fellowship
- Members will feel more personally acknowledged and recognized
- Encourages members to be on time and present for when the roll call is taken
- Provides a more accurate record by having the Secretary record all attendances and absences



In addition, every member should wear a name tag to every meeting, thus providing for the newer members to learn the names of others more quickly. Name tags also serve to facilitate, and encourage, conversation between members. These small, but significant, practices are much more advantageous, over time, than the impersonal method where members just put a check mark next to their name on a "sign in" sheet.



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