

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 Carmelites,

Due to questions and issues re: political activity in OCDS gatherings (meetings, retreats, Days of Recollection, etc.), and after consulting several diocesan policies, I feel I must address this very important topic.

The IRS Code contains provisions directing that an organization exempt from federal income tax described in Section 501(c)(3) may not “participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of

statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.” Though it is the case that each individual OCDS community does not have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, all communities fall under the jurisdiction of the Main Office (which *does* have this IRS status) and so must abide by the limitations on political activities that may be conducted by non-profit entities.

Communities, as a whole, must refrain from any political activity whatsoever, including messages of support for a particular candidate or cause during gatherings of any kind. Community funds may not be used for political contributions, directly or indirectly, in support of any party or candidate. The community is not to use any facility or financial resources to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office and may not distribute any political material at OCDS gatherings. Social media (such as blogs and various social networking sites) also present significant risks of violating the political campaign intervention prohibition.

Recognizing that a member’s *individual right* to participate in the political process is not intended to be diminished, a *community’s presence* on social media (via a website or Facebook/Twitter account, etc.) must not express any opinions that carry a political message, cause or candidate(s). Whenever lawful, communities may contribute to an initiative where the charitable works or purposes and goals of the Catholic Church are furthered (such as pro-life organizations, Catholic Relief Services, etc.). However, no community funds may be contributed in favor of a *particular* candidate or campaign. Please contact the Main Office if you are ever in doubt of what constitutes a violation of this policy or are concerned about any possible political activity that has taken place in your community that would violate the spirit of this policy.

While being a member of the OCDS does not, in any way, diminish your individual rights as a citizen to participate in the political process, communities must be aware of these guidelines and abide by this policy. The Order encourages individual participation in civic affairs, but it is important for communities to understand the increasing challenge and serious potential impact to the OCDS re: crossing the line into unpermitted political activity. Thank you for your cooperation and adherence to this directive, which is effective immediately.

A Blessed Advent Season to all,

Fr. Leonard Copeland, OCD
OCDS Provincial Delegate



NEW MODEL OF LEADERSHIP FOR SMALLER COMMUNITIES 2023-2026

Beginning with the 2023-2026 triennium, there will be a new model of leadership for all communities (Canonically Established, Recognized Community or Group in Discernment) with less than 12 Professed Members eligible to vote. This model will allow smaller communities to continue to operate while unable to field a viable Council at this time and ease the pressure for leadership for this triennium. In the interest of transparency, the complete Guidelines and Timelines for the Triennial Elections (both for communities that are eligible to hold elections and those that are not) are posted to the OCDS website under the “Resources” then “Elections” tab. You will also find a suggested “Prayer for Community Elections” in the same location. The Main Office has sent notice to each community in the Province, based on current Community Rosters, as to which category the community falls under: those which will hold elections and have Councils for the next triennium and those that will submit slates and have Leadership Teams. This categorization is not permanent: at the time of the next triennial election (in 2026), each community will again be reviewed to see whether or not it qualifies, at that time, to hold an election.



USE OF ELECTRONIC BREVIARIES/APPS

In the fall of 2018, a directive – still in effect -- was issued from the Main Office that the printed text for the common recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours (LOH) be used exclusively at all public meetings of the OCDS. This includes the monthly meeting, Retreats, Days of Recollection, etc. Members are free to use other formats of the LOH (electronic apps, Word on

Fire booklets, etc.) when praying the Office privately at home or elsewhere, but only hard copy editions of the breviary may be used at public gatherings. Secular Carmelites should learn how to comfortably navigate the breviary (meaning, to learn all its parts: Propers, Commons, Psalter, etc.), especially when it involves honoring our Carmelite saints using the Carmelite Proper Calendar (found on the OCDS website under “Saints” then “Proper Feast Days/Prayers/Offices”).

CAN YOU “PRAY” THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS WHILE DRIVING A CAR AND LISTENING TO AN AUDIO APP OR READING IT FROM A CELLPHONE?

No. Due reverence and mindful concentration should be employed when praying the Divine Office – one of the two forms of liturgical prayer in the Church. (The other being the Mass.) This is impossible to do if you are driving a car and giving your required undivided attention to safety issues for all concerned.

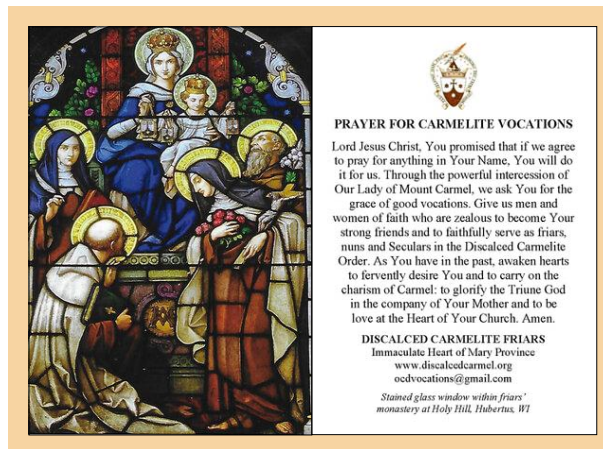
NEW AND IMPROVED CARMELITE VOCATION PRAYER CARDS

We now have a “new and improved” Vocation Prayer Card available for purchase on the OCDS website!

Changes include:

- **Larger size font** for easier reading
- Inclusion of mention for **Secular Carmelite** vocations (in addition to friars and nuns)
- Inclusion of prayer for more vocations of *all* ages (not just the “young”)

The cost remains \$7.50 for a pack of 25 (postage paid).



DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES: MARIAN AND OTHERWISE

An area of confusion seems to be devotional practices in communities. While devotional practices (praying of the rosary, recitation of a litany, May processions, consecrations to the Sacred Heart/ Mary/Joseph/Angels, etc.) are all well and good, these *should not be conducted during a community's monthly meeting*. Devotional practices (outside of the mandated daily wearing of the small Brown Scapular or scapular medal) are not requirements for membership in the OCDS and no member should ever be made to feel coerced into taking part in them. Devotional practices may be approved and held by the community, but must be scheduled either *before* or *after* the regularly monthly meeting [Refer to July 2022 *Carmel Connect*.] 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.

CATECHESIS ON THE BROWN SCAPULAR: COMPOSITION/COLOR OF MATERIAL USED?

The question has arisen as to whether or not the small Brown Scapular, that we OCDS are supposed to wear daily (Statute 32), must be made of brown wool. (FYI: This Statute also allows for the wearing of the scapular medal as an alternative.) On page 17 of the ICS publication, *The Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Catechesis and Ritual*, (which is the official catechesis of the Carmelite Order), there is a description of the composition of the Brown Scapular *as defined by the Order*: "**The scapular consists of two brown or dark pieces of material joined together by two ribbons or pieces of string.**"



2021-2022 NECROLOGY

As of November 1st, the names of 78 of our beloved OCDS sisters and brothers were submitted to the Main Office for inclusion in this year's November 15th Commemoration Mass, at the Brighton Monastery, in honor of **All Deceased Carmelites**. The complete Necrology may be found on pages 6 and 7 of this issue of Carmel Connect and also on the website under "Resources" then "Necrology." Additional photos of this year's Votive Candles -- individually prepared with love and prayer -- may also be found on the website. All candles remained lit during the friars' Mass at the Brighton Monastery.



***“We pray with Christian hope
that they are with God in paradise,
in the expectation of being together again
in that Mystery of Love that we don’t understand,
but which we know is true
because it is a promise that Jesus made.”
Pope Francis***

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

This is a good time to review our OCDS legislation on the topic of our deceased members. Statute 21 indicates what should be done “on the death of a community member.” The community should have a Mass offered for the deceased and also choose one of the following:

- Attend Mass together
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours [Office of the Dead] – Morning or Evening Prayer
- Pray the Rosary or other suitable prayers

In addition, Statute 22 states that each member should do one of the following (if possible):

- Attend the vigil and/or funeral Mass
- Have a Mass offered for the deceased member
- Participate in a Mass and receive Holy Communion for the deceased
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours Office for the Dead – Morning or Evening Prayer

There is no immediate time frame to be followed on these recommended activities. Prudence and common sense on the part of the Council/Leadership Team should be followed. If the next community meeting after the death of a member occurs on a Solemnity, it would be better to pray the LOH for the Solemnity and have the community “pray the Rosary or other suitable prayers” instead of substituting the Office for the Dead in place of the Solemnity Office.



CARMELITE FRIARS OF BRIGHTON THANK YOU!

The friars of the Monastery of the Espousal in Brighton, MA wish to thank all those who requested the Christmas Season Mass cards and are happily looking forward to remembering you and your loved ones, by name, in their Christmas and New Year's Masses. What a beautiful spiritual collaboration between the friars and the Seculars!



2024 OCDS CONGRESS

The next OCDS Congress will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton Wakefield Boston Hotel & Conference Center in Massachusetts from August 22-25, 2024. More details to follow but, for now, please save the dates!

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

It's "that time of year" again and the Main Office has had inquiries about how best to donate community funds as recommended in Statute 75: "OCDS members and communities are encouraged to support the outreaches of the Order financially, such as the Carmelite missions [Kenya], our seminarians [six currently studying at St. John's Seminary], and apostolic works of OCD and OCDS, including the apostolate of one's own community and the Provincial Congress." Here's how a community can support specific causes:

KENYA MISSION:

Make check payable to: **Discalced Carmelite Friars Mission Procurator**
 Address envelope as follows: OCD Kenya Mission
 % Loretta Gallagher, OCDS
 166 Foster St.
 Brighton, MA 02135

STUDENT FRIARS

Make check payable to: Washington Province Discalced Carmelites
 Address envelope as follows: Carmelite Student Fund
 c/o Fr. Donald Brick, OCD
 166 Foster St.
 Brighton, MA 02135

ELDERLY/INFIRM FRIARS

Make check payable to: Washington Province Discalced Carmelites
 Address envelope as follows: Elderly/Infirmary Friars' Fund
 c/o Fr. Donald Brick, OCD
 166 Foster St.
 Brighton, MA 02135



2021-2022 OCDS Nectrology

"We pray, with Christian hope, that they are with God in paradise, in the expectation of being together again in that Mystery of Love that we don't understand but which we know is true because it is a promise that Jesus made." -- Pope Francis

3-27-21	Marjorie Tautkis	Hampton VA
9-11-21	Diane Lotter	Hubertus-MHC, WI
11-19-21	Wayne Tate	Louisville-HS, KY
11-22-21	Ron Pyka	Spicer MN
11-22-21	Louis Ruder	Lakeland FL
11-30-21	Edward Musial	Harrison Township MI
12-1-21	Norbert Langer	Green Bay WI
12-5-21	Shirley Faux	Peoria Heights IL
12-8-21	Carol Lisi	Washington-OLMC, DC
12-12-21	Thomas Reid	Detroit MI
12-13-21	Mary Hagerty	Danvers-MJ, MA
12-13-21	Rita Michaels	Lansing MI
12-23-21	Joyce Tworek	Harrison Township MI
12-29-21	Lorraine DiCristofaro	Schenectady NY
1-19-22	Joan Campbell	Essex MD
1-20-22	Mary Ann Dirrane	New York NY
1-20-22	Stephen Schemmel	Washington-OLMC, DC
1-22-22	Allene Low	Schenectady NY
1-26-22	Barbara Shaughnessy	Orchard Park NY
1-29-22	Jim Reading	Harrison Township MI
2-3-22	Judy Rivard	Flint MI
2-6-22	Sandra Winiasz	Kenmore NY
2-8-22	James Hayes	Virginia Beach VA
2-11-22	Maryann Caldarola	Des Plaines IL
2-15-22	Marlene Acervo	Detroit MI
2-23-22	Phyllis McConnell	Philadelphia-OLMC, PA
3-1-22	Marie Brown	Loretto PA
3-6-22	Nancy Waligorski	Essex MD
3-12-22	Joan O'Neil	Danvers-STA, MA
3-13-22	Maria Bridy	Danville PA
3-15-22	Andrea Whitely	Summerville SC
3-17-22	Marylin Keating	So. Plainfield NJ
3-22-22	Margaret Stellmack	Des Plaines IL
3-22-22	Adeline Welc	Harrison Township MI
3-26-22	Dr. Honesto Vargas	Virginia Beach VA
3-27-22	Lillian Grimley	Barrington RI
3-31-22	Joanne Murphy	Westerville OH
4-7-22	Daniel Smigielski	Bunnell FL





2021-2022 OCDS Necrology (con't.)

4-9-22	Alice Lee Makielski	Staunton VA
4-10-22	Barbara Conder	Green Bay WI
4-18-22	Jennie Stornello	Flint MI
5-3-22	Michael Witkowski	Cherry Hill NJ
5-5-22	Mary Hazboun	Emmaus PA
5-5-22	Agnes Temesvari	Turners Falls MA
5-17-22	Edythe Bonato	Annandale-STCJ, VA
5-22-22	Gayle Atkinson	Des Plaines IL
5-29-22	MaryAnne Birr	Toledo OH
5-29-22	Beatrice Voytko	Ocala FL
6-7-22	Pat Simmons	North Chesterfield VA
6-19-22	Claudia Shaffer	Lakeland FL
6-25-22	Marie Sullivan	Danvers-MJ, MA
6-26-22	Helen Wobser	Toledo OH
7-3-22	Sandy Swanke	Green Bay WI
7-13-22	Catherine Favara	Flint MI
7-19-22	Sandra Balut	Lakeport MI
7-24-22	Mary Mitchell	Danvers-MJ, MA
7-25-22	Howard Bauer	Hubertus-OLMC, WI
7-28-22	Teresa Ganley	Flemington NJ
7-28-22	Fr. John Kostek	Schenectady NY
8-2-22	Edward Donnelly	New York NY
8-3-22	Joan Papa	Seaford DE
8-4-22	Marita Pipan	Danvers-MJ, MA
8-8-22	Marcia Dalton	Danvers-MJ, MA
8-13-22	Bonnie Mohn	Flint MI
8-28-22	Dcn. Terrance Harter	Orchard Park NY
9-3-22	Kerry Roebuck	Safety Harbor FL
9-12-22	Nancy DeCesare	Concord NH
9-15-22	Patricia Eide	Wilson NC
9-17-22	Katherine Peck	New Hartford NY
9-18-22	Mary Galvin	Jacksonville FL
9-25-22	Phyllis Koch	Miami FL
9-27-22	Margaret Kelley	Louisville-HS, KY
10-4-22	Carol Wolf	Pittsburgh PA
10-7-22	Mary McGuckin	Detroit MI
10-13-22	Margaret Simpson	Safety Harbor FL
10-16-22	Thomas Gibbs	Hubertus-OLMC, WI
10-22-22	Kathleen Karnath	Kenmore NY
10-31-22	Elizabeth McNamara	North Chesterfield VA



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