



OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATE
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites



August 28, 2023

Dear Members of the Secular Order,

By the number of “Requests for Delegation” forms that have arrived in the Main Office, I know that many communities are hard at work arranging Ritual Ceremonies for the Fully Professed to be able to take advantage of the *sanatio in radice* that Father General issued on June 16th of this year, which will validate any irregular Final Promises.

We recently received a statement from Fr. Ramiro Casale, the OCDS General Delegate in Rome, that again explains the Invalid/Expired Promise issue and reiterates the importance of never letting the Temporary Promise expire. I would like to share that with you here:

“Dates are important. When people make the Temporary Promise in the OCDS, they make it for three years – that is the canonical validity. (See Carmelite ritual.) That means that, after three years, that Promise expires exactly on the date it was made, and if the Definitive Promise is not made, or the Temporary Promise is not extended formally before that, their Promise expires and people are no longer members of the Secular Order. [The annual *devotional renewal* of the Promise (at Easter time) does not have any canonical validity.]

Many people in the Washington Province (and in other Provinces) made their Final Promise after the expiration date of their Temporary Promise, which means that there is an irregularity – they were no longer members of the Secular Order. This happened out of ignorance or neglect and, after studying the case and consulting canon lawyers and other specialists, our Father General decided to grant a ‘*sanatio in radice*’ to the OCDS in the Washington Province to validate their Final Promise and fix this irregularity. Now communities have been asked to pay special attention to never let the Temporary Promise expire.

I hope this helps you to understand the irregularity in which some OCDS in the Washington Province (not all) found themselves and why there was the need of a ‘*sanatio in radice*’ to regularize their situation.”

I hope this further clarifies the issue for all. Thank you for your generous spirit in following the directives of our Carmelite Curia in Rome regarding this issue. I realize this has presented a hardship in many communities, but graces and blessings always abound in the exercise of obedience.

Shalom,

Fr. Leonard R. Copeland, OCD
OCDS Provincial Delegate