
From the President's Desk

By Anna Peterson, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

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News from around the Province — Oklahoma City, OK	32	The Mission of the OCDS Provincial Council of the Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse is to serve all members of the OCDS, individually and as communities, in order to strengthen and nourish the development of our Carmelite vocation, so that all can “walk and be underway,*” doing all we can to live the Gospel and bring our spirituality into the world. (*Conclusive Document 91 st Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites, Avila, Spain. May 2-24, 2015, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, General Delegate to the OCDS)
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The PC also identified goals or its “To Do” list for 2020-2023. It accomplished most of the goals including:

- Revised the vision and mission and define goals for the Triennium (2020-2023).
- Became among ourselves a small community of Discalced Carmelite Seculars in communion with Our Lord, Our Blessed Mother, our Carmelite saints, and each other, as a dynamic, relevant, resourceful OCDS Provincial Council Team.
 - ⇒ Strove to maintain positive, honest, and ongoing communication, no matter the situation
 - ⇒ Maintained and revised a Handbook for OCDS Provincial Council members that provides information on roles and responsibilities
 - ⇒ Scheduled an orientation conference for the new OCDS Provincial Council at the beginning of the triennium – January 2023
- Continued to monitor and develop policies and norms for practical use and revised existing policies and norms.
- Maintained a fraternal and productive working relationship with our Friars.
- Continued to work with the Inter-Provincial Council (IPC) – attended an IPC Zoom meeting in August 2022 and was represented on the Formation Guidelines Task Force
- Continued to assist communities through the *Flos Carmeli*, the OCDS provincial website, email, telephone calls, and personal contact.
- Developed an index for OCDS Legislation.
- Began to develop and provide training sessions for communities using communications technology.
- Updated the OCDS Provincial website to ensure that it is as “user-friendly” and secure as possible.

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- Used technology to provide the required Plenary Council meeting in November 2020 and a Mini-Congress in October 2021 attended by over 700 OCDS members from two provinces.

Little did we foresee what awaited us when we came on board in late January 2020. Circumstances forced us to be creative and to explore what technology had to offer.

In this issue . . .

- Article by Father Stephen Sanchez on Christian love
- meet our new PC members
- additional information on the election process

Two recent letters from the Superiors of the Order should be of interest to you. One is from the Superior General: [Letter from Father General, December 14, 2022](#) and another from the OCDS Delegate: [General Delegate Christmas Letter 2022](#)

Service during this triennium has been a challenge and an incredible blessing! May the New Year and the new triennium be filled with peace, hope, and continued growth along our journey in Carmel.

Yours in Carmel,

Anna Peterson, OCDS

**President, Provincial Council
for the OCDS Oklahoma Semi-Province**

Council Members:

Barbara Basgall, OCDS, Mark Calvert, OCDS, Maxine Latiolais, OCDS and Jillison Parks, OCDS



Report from the Provincial Delegate— Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

Love: The Desire of our Being

We as the community of believers, The Church, have just celebrated the Incarnation of God's Word for us. This Word has taken on our humanity in the Sacred Person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, made known to us and manifested to us wrapped in swaddling clothes in his mystical marriage to us. Christ is the Incarnation of God's Word of Faithfulness to us. He is THE Eternal Covenant. How often do we consider this Mystery? Do we ever ask, "Why this commitment?" "What impelled God to this?"



†
Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary, that
never was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought
thine intercession was left
unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee, O Virgin of
virgins, my mother; to thee do I
come, before thee I stand, sinful
and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word
Incarnate, despise not my
petitions, but in thy mercy hear
and answer me. Amen.

We as a people are driven by the desire to simplify difficult ideas or concepts, to make them understandable at least to ourselves and help us to explain to others. Unfortunately, in our attempts to simplify, we also tend to lessen the depth and meaning of the concept in question. We do the same thing with the Christian concept of love so that the profound commitment of this mystery can be grasped. Many times, this simplification may lead to explaining love by reducing it to sentimentalism – a caricature of the essence of genuine love. As contemplatives, do we ever take time to ponder the question of love? We allow the unbelieving dominant culture to reduce the Mystery of the Incarnation into a national holiday with plump cupids, tinsel, and twinkling lights. Granted that these are *meant* to be signs of something deeper but unfortunately no one takes the time to teach that there is a deeper meaning to the signs. The result being that there have been succeeding generations that have assumed that the sign was understood until we come to a generation that not only does not understand the signs but questions their validity and begins to look for signs that are valuable or significant to them, and we begin the process again.

As a Christian community we each possess a need for "something other," for something transcendent. This awareness of "the Other" can be deepened by taking time to reflect more on the mystery of the Love of God for us. This reflection will help us in our witness to an unbelieving world of the timeless truth of the Gospel that we have received.

"In this love of God which man meets in Christ he experiences not only what true love is but also at the same time, and unanswerably, that he, sinner and egoist that he is, has no true love. He experiences both aspects in one: the creature's limited love and its guilty frigidity...one

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Report from the Provincial Delegate— Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

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must start from the beginning to re-learn what love really is.”

Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone*, p. 51

“The most certain sign, in my opinion, as to whether or not we are observing these two laws [love of God and love of neighbor] is whether we observe well the love of neighbor. We cannot know whether or not we love God, although there are strong indications for recognizing that we do love Him; but we can know whether we love our neighbor [1 Jn 4:20]. And be certain that the more advanced you see you are in love of your neighbor the more advanced you will be in the love of God, for the love His Majesty has for us is so great that to repay us for our love of neighbor He will in a thousand ways increase the love we have for Him. I cannot doubt this.”

St. Teresa of Jesus, Interior Castle, 5th Dwelling Places, 3, 8

The dominant culture is very much like the Narcissus of mythology, captivated and awed by its own beauty, power, and ability to manipulate its surroundings. Our mission as Christians is to turn the face of Narcissus towards the One Creator who has committed Himself to our transformation in and through Christ.

“Christian love is not the world’s last word about itself – it is God’s final word about Himself, and so about the world. In the Cross we see, above all, something foreign to the world, something which cuts clean across the worldly understanding: A Word which the world does not want to hear at any price. For the world wants to live and rise without dying; but Christ’s love wishes to die, in order that, through death, it may rise again beyond death in God’s form.”

Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone*, p. 112

May the Spirit of the Love-of-God-made-Flesh for us dwell in your hearts and families, and may that Spirit bring forth the Fruit of Redemption and Salvation for all those you love.

In Him,

Fr. Stephen Sánchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Triennial Elections—Part II

The OCDS Local Council Election Process

(See Part 1 – Pre-Election Requirements and Suggestions in the Fall 2022 *Flos*)

Please review **Section XVI: Community Elections** from the OCDS Provincial Statutes for the Oklahoma Province. *The information below is taken from the Statutes and from the Provincial website unless otherwise noted.*

At this time all nominating committees should be appointed and working to fill the ballots for the upcoming local council elections. The elections for each community and study group in the Oklahoma Semi-Province must be held prior to May 1, 2023.

As a review of Part I: Pre-Election Requirements and Suggestions see below. *For more details, please refer to the Statutes and to the article on Pre-Election matters located in the Fall 2022 *Flos Carmeli*.*

1. At least three (3) months prior to elections, the members of the nominating committee are introduced to the community.
2. It is suggested that at least one (1) month prior to elections the nominating committee submits the names of the nominees for the ballot to the local council. The local council approves or disapproves the names submitted.
3. At least three (3) weeks prior to the elections a list of the candidates shall be given to the community.
4. If any candidate has already served two (2) consecutive terms, to be elected to a third consecutive term requires a postulation from the Provincial. This must be done before the election. Please send your request for a postulation to our Provincial Delegate, Father Stephen Sanchez at stephen.sanchez@carmelitefriarsocd.com with a copy to your visitorator.

Please provide Fr. Stephen the following:

- Name of your community,
- City of community,
- Name of person requiring a postulation to serve a third term,
- The positions she/he has served in the last six (6) years, and
- The reason this person is needed to serve an additional three (3) years.

Part II: The Election Process

1. The elections are to be conducted in accordance with recognized parliamentary procedures, such as Robert's Rules of Order, with particular provisions set forth in Section XVI of the OCDS Statutes.
2. Only professed members (first or definitive) are allowed to be on the ballot and only professed members (first or definitive) may vote.
3. Members must be present to vote.
4. Nominations from the floor shall not be accepted.
5. Write-in votes are valid if the nominee is eligible and willing to serve.
6. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
7. Incumbent President shall preside at the elections.

Election of the President

1. The Spiritual Assistant shall invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the absence of the Assistant, this shall be the duty of the incumbent President.
2. Election of the President is on a separate ballot. For study groups, President can be on the same ballot as councilor(s).
3. Candidates are elected by a majority vote. ***The Majority vote is a number greater than half the valid votes cast.***

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Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Triennial Elections—Part II

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4. If no candidate receives a majority vote, the two (2) nominees receiving the highest number of votes will run off on a second ballot. If the second ballot produces a tie, there shall be a third and final ballot. If a tie is on the third ballot, the candidate with seniority of profession wins. If there is a tie in length of profession, then seniority by age shall determine the election.

Election of Councilors

1. There are three (3) councilor positions on the local council for a Canonical Community.
2. Each council position is voted on separately.
3. The candidates for President who are not elected are automatically placed on the councilors' ballot.
4. The entire list of candidates shall be on the ballot for the first council position.
5. Candidates not elected for the first council position shall automatically be on the ballot for the second council position.
6. Candidates not elected for the second council position shall automatically be on the ballot for the third council position.
7. In the case of a tie, on any of the three (3) councilor ballots, please refer to the rules in Section XVI of the Statutes, which are summarized above in number 4 under Election of President.

The final vote count shall be recorded in the community minutes.

The newly elected council shall assume its duties at the conclusion of the meeting in which they were elected.

Sample Ballots:

For President- Please circle your vote.

Teresa Avila

John Cross

Anne Jesus

Ballot for First Councilor- Please cross out the member elected President.
Circle only one from remaining candidates.

~~**Teresa Avila**~~

John Cross

Anne Jesus

Edith Stein

Elizabeth Trinity

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Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Triennial Elections—Part II

(Continued from page 7)

Ballot for **Second** Councilor- Please cross out the members elected President and First Councilor.

Circle only one from remaining candidates.

~~Teresa Avila~~

~~John Cross~~

Anne Jesus

Edith Stein

Elizabeth Trinity

Ballot for **Third** Councilor- Please cross out the members elected President, First and Second Councilors.

Circle only one from remaining candidates.

~~Teresa Avila~~

~~John Cross~~

Anne Jesus

Edith Stein

Elizabeth Trinity

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Triennial Elections—Part III

Post-Election Matters

*Please become familiar with the Constitutions, Articles 46, 47, 48, 50-55
and the Provincial Statutes, Section XVI*

The elections are over, and we have a newly elected president and three councilors. Congratulations! Now what? Pursuant to the Provincial Statutes, the newly elected council takes office at the conclusion of the community meeting in which they are elected. The previous president, councilors, and formation director positions are vacated as soon as the newly elected council assumes its duties.

The Secretary and Treasurer continue to serve until new appointments are made by the new council.

It is the obligation and duty of each community member -- but especially the local council -- to be very familiar with the legislation of our Order. Therefore, make it a priority to study the Constitutions, Statutes, and Ratio until you are well versed in their contents. The job of the council will be much easier if the council members are well versed in the legislation.

Director of Formation

Probably one of the first orders of business for the new council is the election of a Director of Formation.

- Section XVI.6 of the Provincial Statutes states that the new council shall elect the Director of Formation after prayerful discussion and discernment.
- Before electing the Director of Formation, consult with the Spiritual Assistant (see Constitution, Article 50).
- The Director of Formation must be definitively professed.
- If the Director of Formation is elected from one of the new council members, the candidate with the next highest number of votes on the last councilor ballot is made a councilor (Statutes, Section XVI.7).
- It is suggested that the election of the Director of Formation be by secret ballot.

DO NOT let anyone tell you that a Director of Formation must be appointed immediately. This is not true and very ill-advised. This position is very important to the council and to the community. Each member of the council should pray to the Holy Spirit for discernment and guidance in this decision. The council should prayerfully make recommendations and discern the qualities needed for serving in this position.

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY of the council is the formation of the members of the community (see Constitution, Article 46). The council will handle any formation matters that may arise before the appointment of the Director of Formation. Do not rush into a decision.

Hand-off Meeting with Outgoing Council

A hand-off meeting is **strongly** recommended pursuant to Section XVI.8 of the Statutes. The new council should not be thrown into a position blindly. It is important that the outgoing council communicates to and informs the new council members of important matters, upcoming tasks, and unfinished business. Council files, records, and forms should be transferred. Due to Covid-19, many councils did not do this at the last triennium elections, and it proved disastrous for some councils and communities. It is helpful when the president and/or some of the councilors are serving a second term (on the new council), so that council member terms are staggered, and continuity is maintained.

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What should be discussed and transferred at a Hand-off Meeting?

Suggestions:

- Any forms used in conducting community business, such as agenda, roster, attendance, directory, and interview forms
- Financial Matters - *may stay with the Treasurer, but the President should be advised where these documents are located:*
 - yearend financial statement,
 - bank records,
 - bank documents,
 - any forms or bank documents needed to change signatures on checks, and
 - three (3) year financial budget.
- Any matters that will carry over into the new triennium:
 - disciplinary actions or warnings to a member, any written correspondence to members,
 - the most recent visitor's report provided to the local council,
 - any correspondence from the Provincial Council (PC) and the Provincial,
 - current roster and financials sent to the PC for this year or for the past year,
 - upcoming retreat matters,
 - community job descriptions and positions currently held by members,
 - any old business not completed by the outgoing council,
 - any work in progress,
 - new business not completely addressed by the outgoing council,
 - a copy of the yearly calendar of items to be addressed by the council, and any information needed to coordinate the location of monthly meetings, donations for meeting rooms, and all requirements and rules of the facilities used.
- Formation
 - formation files,
 - personal member files,
 - interview notes,
 - formation syllabus,
 - formator training and formator information,
- Binders or handbooks for the president, director of formation, and councilors, if any.

Calendar of events

It is beneficial to the new council if the election occurred after the new year's formation has started. This allows the new council time to handle other business and not be frantic to set up formation, educate formators, and all other formation requirements immediately after taking office. Aside from electing a director of formation, the new council should set up a yearly calendar, or review the yearly calendar provided by the previous council and make any changes.

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Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Triennial Elections—Part III

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Suggested items for the calendar (To Do list):

First Month: elect the director of formation, schedule the hand-off meeting, appoint a secretary for council (can be a council member), appoint a secretary for community meetings (can be the same as the council secretary), and appoint the treasurer.

Second and Third Months: finalize the yearly calendar, and review formation and formators. Look at what has been planned for the community's yearly retreat and what actions must be taken when turning in any documents required by the PC, appointing a Spiritual Assistant, preparing a yearly budget, changing signatures at the bank

Other Months: organize Feast Day Masses and celebrations, group formation, guest speakers, review of community policies, interviews with persons in formation, and any other formation matters brought to the attention of the council. Don't forget to schedule on the calendar the yearly renewal of promises during the Easter Season (see Constitution, Article 12 and Provincial Statute, Section I.8).

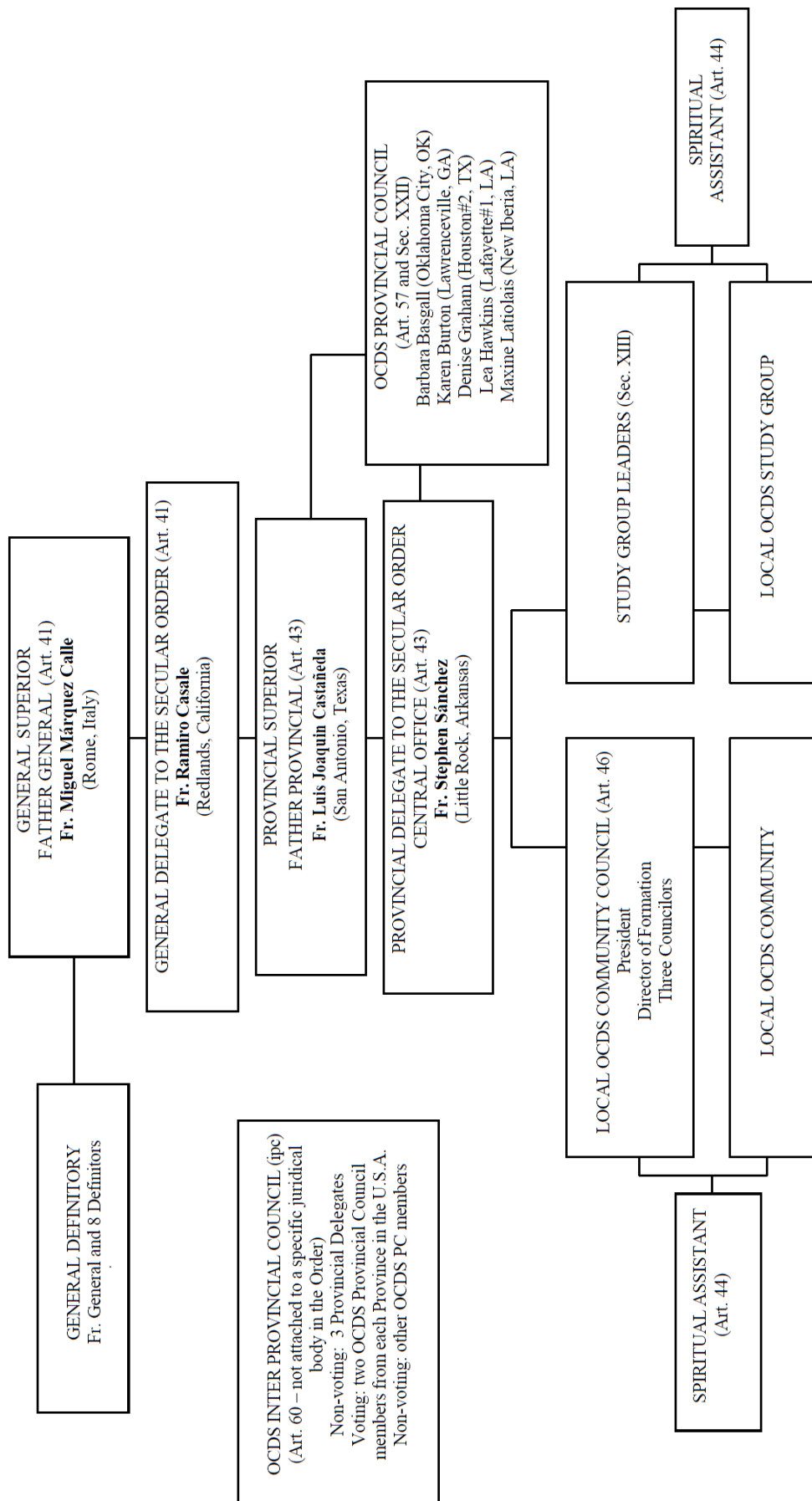
Look at future meeting dates and determine if any meetings need to be rescheduled or set up for a different day due to facility requirements or conflicting holidays.

Hopefully the above information is helpful and not more confusing. It really isn't as hard or overwhelming as it appears. The Provincial Council is always available to help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Visitor for your community.

Remember, the Holy Spirit gives you the Grace and gifts for your office. Have faith and call upon the Spirit always. May He lead and guide you in all your decisions and undertakings.

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Organizational Chart

SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Therese



Effective January 2023

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Provincial Council



Karen Burton
St. Thérèse, the Little Flower Community
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Having been a resident of Georgia since 1970, I currently live in Bethlehem, Georgia. Retiring in May 2020 from retail customer service, I also worked in credit card operations for 30 years prior to that. I am a widow and have two sisters and one brother. My brother lives with me and my sisters live in northwest Georgia in Acworth and in northeast Georgia in Gainesville. They live 45-55 miles from me, and we get together as often as we can.

As a member of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower community in Lawrenceville, Georgia, I began formation in 2009 and made my Definitive Promise in 2015. I have served as Formator, Treasurer, Council member and Director of Formation. During my second term on our Local Council, I assisted in the work needed and achieved Canonical status for our community.

In my parish of St. Matthew in Winder, Georgia, I serve as sacristan, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister and assist and sponsor new Catholics in RCIA. I have also been a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for 18 years and currently serve as the secretary and a caseworker.

I am excited and honored to serve on the Provincial Council and ask for your prayers.
Yours in Carmel, Karen.

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Provincial Council



Denise Graham, OCDS
San Juan de la Cruz Community
Houston, Texas

It is certainly an honor, and I am humbled that I have been selected to serve on the Oklahoma OCDS Provincial Council. I live about an hour north of Houston and am a member of the San Juan de la Cruz Community (Houston #2) having made my definitive promise in July 2017.

My involvement in my community includes serving as Director of Formation for three years, and currently I am serving as President. I also volunteered on the Congress Committee in 2021.

In my church parish, I serve as a lector at Mass. I am also a member of the Catholic Daughters and the Vocations Committee. Currently I still work full time for the State of Texas but am discerning retirement. I ask that you pray for the new Provincial Council that the Holy Spirit may guide us in our work. It will be a blessing to serve all the communities in the Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse.

Your servant in Carmel, Denise

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse—Provincial Council



Lea Hawkins, OCDS
Mary, Mother of Grace Community
Lafayette, Louisiana

Our Lady had her mantle over me from an early age. I have been a “hometown” girl my entire life; born and raised in a small town, Maurice, Louisiana. I received my earliest education at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Abbeville, Louisiana). My first encounter with Our Lady was as a Kindergartener when I was asked to place a crown of fresh flowers on her head for the May Crowning. I graduated from Vermilion Catholic High School under the tutelage of the Sisters of Mt. Carmel.

After attending The University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) twice, with Degrees in Natural Sciences (3-1/2 years in Nursing) and Geological Engineering, I was employed for a few years in the waning oil and gas industry. I then met and married the love of my life, Joe now going on 35 years. We are the very proud parents of two amazing sons -- *Stefan* (married to *Amber*) is a CPA with two beautiful children (*Adelynn Claire* and *Jonas Anthony*) and *Collin* (single, living in Denver) is a Chemical Engineer currently working for an aerospace corporation .

After a brief period of “retirement” I was asked to be the Assistant Director for The Women’s Center of Lafayette, a Catholic Crisis Pregnancy Center, involved in fundraising activities and counseling those seriously seeking abortions.

Following this assignment, the Lord sent me to work with Fr. Conley Bertrand at the *Come, Lord Jesus!* Program as his Program and Publications Coordinator. Aside from being steeped in Scripture, I prepared materials and newsletters & videos for groups in and out of the country. Following another decade, I was asked by Fr. Michael Russo to be the Director of Religious Education for Our Lady of Fatima Parish to coordinate catechesis for K-8, 9-12, RCIA as well as First Communion & Confirmation Prep and Ceremonies. I was also Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

My most cherished assignment was caretaker for three of our beloved infirmed cloistered Carmelite Nuns who vowed to “Pray me into Carmel as a Tertiary.” Their prayers were answered, and I have found my “home” in the Community of Mary, Mother of Grace.

During my nearly 17 years of membership, I have served as Aspirancy Formator, Liturgy Coordinator, President and at present, Formation Director. For those who know me, I am not a wallflower. So, happily, Carmel has become my “white picket fence” without which, I would surely be in everyone else’s yard. I am humbled by the invitation to serve my Order in a deeper capacity on the Provincial Council. I look forward to learning ever more about our beautiful Carmelite Order, her charism and getting to know many more of my Sisters and Brothers, sharing our joy and love for Our Lord and Our Lady. Please pray for me as I will be praying for you. Sincerely, I remain with profound gratitude, Lea.

News from the Province — San Juan de la Cruz Community, Houston, Texas (#2)

Submitted by Denise Graham, OCDS

On December 10, 2022, Stephen Andrew Cosse received the scapular of the Order and was received into the San Juan de la Cruz Community (Houston #2). Fr. Marion Bui, OCD presided over the ceremony with Deacon KC Curtis, OCDS assisting.



Left to Right: Fr. Marion Bui, OCD; Stephen Cosse; Deacon KC Curtis and Formation Director Natalie Ocansey

News from the Province — San Juan de la Cruz Community, Houston, Texas (#2)

Submitted by Denise Graham, OCDS

The San Juan de la Cruz community (Houston #2) had a retreat at the Mt. Carmel House of Prayer in Houston with Fr. Stephen Sanchez, OCD on September 9-11, 2022. The retreat theme was St John of the Cross - The Dark Night.



**News from the Province — St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face -
OCDS Study Group, Houston, Texas (Houston #3)**

Submitted by Dina Montufar-Solis, OCDS

In 2022, the monthly meetings occurred on four of our Carmelite Solemnities and one Memorial: St. Joseph, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Albert of Jerusalem, St. Teresa of Jesus, and St Raphael Kalinowski.

On March 19, 2022, the community celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Houston, Texas.

Pictured below: Front row, left to right: Teresa Langford, Beth O'Neal, Betty Hynson, Margarita Dufilho, and Ana Zamarripa.

Back row: Virginia Fraguio, Richard Dole, Karen Sumner, Henrietta Rottman, and Chris Wood.



**News from the Province — St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face -
OCDS Study Group, Houston, Texas (Houston #3)**

Submitted by Dina Montufar-Solis, OCDS

On December 4, 2021, the community celebrated Rituals with three community members making their promise during the 2021 Advent season. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD at St. James the Apostle Catholic Church, Spring, Texas.



(Picture on Left)
Gardo Blado professing Definitive Promise



(Picture on Right)
Bethanie O'Neal professing Definitive Promise



(Picture on Left)
Betty Hinson professing First Promise

News from the Province — St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face - OCDS Study Group, Houston, Texas (Houston #3)

Submitted by Dina Montufar-Solis, OCDS

On July 16, 2022, the community celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Houston, Texas. Parishioners of churches in the area were invited to join for Morning Prayer, Mass and a presentation. Pictured below are attendees who stayed for the informative presentation on our Order.



On October 15, 2022, the community celebrated the Solemnity of St. Teresa of Jesus during the annual retreat at Mount Carmel House of Prayer, Houston, Texas where Virginia Fraguio made her definitive profession. The retreat master was Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD who spoke on the topic of "St. Teresa and Contemplative Prayer."

Pictured below on left: Front left to right: Mary Bloom, Betty Hynson, Richard Dole, Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, Virginia Fraguio, Bethanie O'Neal, Margarita Dufilho.
Back row: Emma Straten, Dina Montufar-Solis, and Henrietta Rottman



Virginia Fraguio professing Definitive Promise

News from the Province — Community of the Transfiguration, Knoxville, Tennessee

Submitted by Mark Calvert, OCDS

Father Jorge María Cabrera, OCD, conducted a retreat for the Knoxville, Tennessee OCDS Community of the Transfiguration on November 4-6, 2022, at the Jubilee House Retreat Center in Abingdon, Virginia.



In attendance from left to right: John Karwowski, Marlene Karwowski, Kathy Bracic, Kat Dull, John Kobza, Vicki Crabtree, Mary Leitnaker, Wink Crabtree, Margaret Timm, Fr. Jorge, Ghislaine Miller, Mark Calvert, Rosemary Calvert, Nancy Goldcamp, Beverly Benoit, Anita Gouge, Kate MacDonald, Carole Amador, Valerie Maguire, Joe Amador, Patsy Sharp, Valerie Ponce, and Mary Pat Ernst.

News from the Province — Community of the Transfiguration, Knoxville, Tennessee

Submitted by Mark Calvert, OCDS

On November 15, 2022, as part of the community's ongoing apostolate, the Knoxville Community of the Transfiguration arranged for a special Mass for the Feast of All Carmelite Saints. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mark Schuster and Mark Calvert, president, served as altar server.



News from the Province — Community of the Transfiguration, Knoxville, Tennessee

Submitted by Mark Calvert, OCDS

On October 16, 2022, the Community of the Transfiguration held rituals at the Chapel of the Chancery of the Diocese of Knoxville.



Jacqueline Foster was clothed with the Brown Scapular by His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali, Spiritual Assistant. Assisting Cardinal Rigali are Valerie Ponce, Formation Director (center left) and Dorothy Curtis (far right).



Viki Leigh made her Definitive Promise with His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali presiding.

News from the Province — St. Joseph and St. Thérèse of Lisieux Community,

Jackson, Mississippi

Submitted by Dorothy Ashley, OCDS

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the Jackson Community had three members professing Definitive Promise: Elena Buno, Maria Asuncion Cannon, and Rizalina Caskey. One member made First Promise: Elizabeth Jones. Three members were clothed with the Scapular of the Order: Overton "Pierce" Crockett, Elizabeth Lee, and Christina Overton. All the Rites took place during Mass at St. Jude Catholic Church, Pearl, Mississippi with Fr. Jerome Earley, OCD, Spiritual Assistant as the Presider. Fr. Lincoln Dall, a member of the community concelebrated and Deacon John McGregor of St. Jude assisted. Afterwards the community and guests enjoyed a Christmas party with music, dancing, "Carmelite Bingo," a delicious lunch, and ending the day with the singing of Christmas carols. It was truly a day of celebration and thanksgiving for God's many blessings upon our Community.



Left to Right: Fr. Jerome Earley, Anita DeRouen (Formation Director), Elizabeth Jones,
Maria Asuncion Cannon, Rizalina Caskey, and Elena Buno

Left to Right: Fr. Jerome Earley, Christina Overton, Elizabeth Lee, and Overton "Pierce" Crockett



**News from the Province — St. Joseph and St. Thérèse of Lisieux Community,
Jackson, Mississippi**
Submitted by Dorothy Ashley, OCDS



Our Community after the Mass with Fr. Jerome Earley, OCD

News from the Province — St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel, Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Datie Cespiva, OCDS

The OCDS Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel celebrated Rituals on October 16, 2022, during Evening Prayer. Sandra Guidry made her First Promise and Anna Varghese made her Definitive Promise. Fr. Conley Bertrand, Spiritual Assistant, presided over the ceremony held at St. John Paul the Great Academy Chapel.



Left to right: Anna Varghese, Sandra Guidry, Kathy Ray, Director of Formation, and Fr. Conley Bertrand



Left to Right: Sandra Guidry, Fr. Conley Bertrand, and Anna Varghese

News from the Province — St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel, Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Datie Cespiva, OCDS

On Sunday November 20, 2022, Ellen Arceneaux and Tanya Patton from the Community of St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel in Lafayette, Louisiana, were clothed with the Scapular of the Order. Fr. Conley Bertrand, Spiritual Assistant, presided over the Ritual.



Left to Right: Ellen Arceneaux, Fr. Conley Bertrand, and Tanya Patton

News from the Province — St. Joseph, Guardian of Carmel, Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Datie Cespiva, OCDS

A silent retreat on St. Thérèse of Lisieux was held on the weekend of October 29-30, 2022, at St. John Paul the Great Academy Chapel in Lafayette, Louisiana by the Community of St. Joseph Guardian of Carmel. The Retreat Master was Fr. Jorge Cabrera, OCD. The OCDS Communities of Mary, Mother of Grace from Lafayette and the Community of Elijah the Prophet and St. Mary of Jesus Crucified from Alexandria, Louisiana were also present.



Retreat Master - Fr. Jorge Maria Cabrera de la Eucaristia, OCD



Group picture with attendees of the three Communities, Fr. Jorge Cabrera, Retreat Master, and Fr. Conley Bertrand, Spiritual Assistant to St Joseph and Mary, Mother of Grace communities

News from the Province — Community of the St. Mariam of Jesus Crucified, McAllen, Texas

Submitted by Iris Rodriguez, OCDS

On October 9, 2022, Cynthia Aguilar of the Sacred Hearts of the Holy Family (Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Most Chaste Heart of St. Joseph) made her First Promise in front of the community of St. Mariam of Jesus Crucified. Deacon Johnny Gonzalez presided.



Pictured: Deacon Johnny Gonzalez and Cynthia Aguilar

News from the Province — Mary, Beloved of the Trinity Community, New Iberia, Louisiana

Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the New Iberia community of Mary, Beloved of the Trinity celebrated Rituals with Cathy Landy making her First Promise. Fr. Bill John Melancon, OCDS, Spiritual Assistant, presided over the Ritual.



Left to Right: Toni Simoneaud, President; Fr. Bill John Melancon, Spiritual Assistant, Cathy Landry, Bernadette Derouen, Director of Formation

News from the Province — Community of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Submitted by Letty Silva, OCDS

On October 1, 2022, the Community of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus celebrated the Feast of St. Thérèse at the Little Flower Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Celebrant was Father Luis Belmonte-Luna, OCD, Spiritual Assistant.



Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

Prayer for Community Elections

Holy Spirit, Fount of All Wisdom,
our community is facing elections mandated to us in our Constitutions.
We thank you for the generosity of those souls who have offered to serve
their sisters and brothers with their God-given talents and time
by allowing their names to appear on the ballot.

Inspire us to elect those whom You know will serve the community best
in fraternal charity and prudence for the next three years.
Purge us of any false pride;
instill in those who are elected a true sense of love and concern
by putting the welfare of the community first in all things.

We thank You for the gift of choice, and trust that You will journey with us,
enlightening us where needed
and blessing our efforts to be good and holy Carmelites.

We ask Your assistance now, through the intercession of Your Spouse,
the Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel. Amen

Washington Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brighton, MA



Carmelite Obituaries



Fr. John Henry Bordeaux, OCD **1936 – 2022**

Fr. John Henry Bordeaux of the Mother of Grace, OCD, entered eternal life on November 30, 2022, at the age of 86. He was born in Lafayette, Louisiana on February 6, 1936, entered Immaculata Minor Seminary in Lafayette at the age of 14. In 1953, he joined the Oklahoma Province of the Discalced Carmelite Friars, in which he made his first religious profession of vows on July 16, 1955. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1962. Earlier this year, he celebrated with great joy 60 years of priesthood.

Throughout his years as a Discalced Carmelite Priest, Fr. Henry served the people of God in Oklahoma City, Dallas, San Antonio, Dilley, and Little Rock. In Arkansas, he helped establish the Catholic community and church of Glenwood. Fr. Henry was noted for his joyful, prayerful, and community-minded spirit and for his love of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was wholeheartedly dedicated to his priestly ministry, especially as confessor and spiritual director.

On Tuesday, December 6, 2022, the OCD Friars celebrated Fr. Henry's life with a Rosary and Funeral Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, San Antonio. Then on Thursday, December 8, 2022, a Mass and the burial were held at Marylake Monastery, Little Rock, Arkansas.



Mike Burns, OCDS **1935- 2022**

Savannah Study Group
Submitted by Liz Nazareth, OCDS

Mike Burns died on September 7, 2022, after a long illness.

A Memorial Mass was held Saturday, September 17, 2022, at St. James Catholic Church, Savannah, Georgia.

Mike was one of the original members of the group that began meeting in 1990. He took the devotion name of Mike of St. Thomas. Mike contributed greatly to the community including serving as President and Treasurer several times over the years.

Mike earned an MBA degree and served as a CPA. He was active in his church parish, as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, and in the St. John Vianney Vocations Ministry that promotes and prays for religious vocations. His personal apostolate was feeding the poor at the Inner-City Night Shelter.

Carmelite Obituaries



Shirley Clement, OCDS

November 17, 1934 – November 6, 2022

Mary Beloved of the Trinity, New Iberia, Louisiana

Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Jeanerette, Louisiana.

Shirley made her First Promise on November 17, 1991 and her Definitive Promise on September 29, 1997, taking the devotional name of Mary Luke of Jesus Incarnate. She was on Infirm status for many years but would attend meetings whenever she was able.

Shirley worked for many years as a paralegal. She was a very devout Catholic attending daily Mass and volunteering her time in church taking care of the Altar Linens.



Catherine J. Walker, OCDS

October 11, 1936 - October 31, 2022

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace

Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS



Funeral services were held Saturday, November 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Broussard, Louisiana for Catherine Walker.

Catherine was a member of St Joseph Catholic Church, Broussard, Louisiana. Catherine was a Housekeeper at USL for several years until she became disabled. She was a devout Catholic with unshakable faith. Catherine became a Eucharistic Minister during her tenure at St. Joseph Catholic Church. She also entered Carmel receiving the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on May 20, 2001. She professed her First Promise on May 18, 2003, and her Definitive Promise for the rest of her life on May 20, 2007. She also served as a member of the OCDS Community Council for 3 years.

Catherine was always pleased to receive calls from members of the community and forever left you with a light-hearted feeling of joy.

Parting Words

Flos Carmeli provides information for the Secular members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Oklahoma Semi-Province, which has jurisdiction over OCDS members living in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

Oklahoma Semi-Province members wishing to submit articles for publication in the *Flos Carmeli* or for subscription information, please contact Maxine Latiolais, Provincial Council *Flos Carmeli* coordinator, at flos.submit@gmail.com

The submission due dates for articles are:

January 1
April 1
July 1
October 1

Any OCDS member submitting an article must include their name, community name and location in the article.

❖
During the joyous occasion of the 150th anniversary of St. Therese's birth, recommit yourself to doing ordinary things with extraordinary love all year long.

From helping a neighbor in need to volunteering your time, you can be a blessing to those around you while showing your devotion to our Little Flower.

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."
– St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Getting the Flos Carmeli to members

Community presidents, please remember that the Province no longer mails out copies of the Flos Carmeli to communities. It is the community's responsibility to get a copy to each of your members, either via email or by print. This includes all isolate, aged, or infirm members. Thank you!

Provincial Council:

Anna Peterson, San Antonio, TX, President

Barbara A. Basgall, Oklahoma City, OK

Mark Calvert, Knoxville, TN

Maxine Latiolais, New Iberia, LA

Jillison Parks, Savannah, GA