

# Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse  
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

## From the President's Desk

By Anna Peterson, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

May this New Year bring you many graces and much joy and peace!

The Provincial Council is most grateful for your support and positive response to the Mini-Congress held on October 30, 2021.

Again, we extend a heartfelt “Thank You” to our friars, Fr. Luis Joaquin Castañeda, Fr. Stephen Sánchez, and Fr. Jorge Cabrera.

**In this issue** . . . our OCDS Provincial Delegate, Fr. Stephen Sánchez, offers thoughts on the contemplative heart and on our role as lay contemplatives. We recommend that communities read, ponder, and discuss this article in community.

## Question and Answer -

**Q. Our Council would like to get rid of files that we keep adding to and trying to store. We have the Permanent Record now so can we throw out old files?**

**A. NO! You may only clean out files and records *with caution*.**

It is suggested that a physical copy of the information that has been submitted on the Permanent Record Form for all members be kept at the local level as a backup. The OCDS Provincial Office's Permanent Record is not a substitute for the local council's own records for members in formation or for transfers. Local records may be in paper or digital format. Some communities are converting paper records to digital records.

**What can be destroyed** – private or personal information of definitively professed members (e.g. study assignments, letters requesting to make the Promise).

**What must be retained** – any documents of members in formation that will provide information regarding discernment; community and council minutes; financial records; permanent records of transferred, released, dismissed, deceased members; attendance.

Winter 2022

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## From the President's Desk

By Anna Peterson, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

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As we begin a new calendar year, consider the words from the Responsory to the Office of Readings on the Feast of the Holy Family:

*Have a rejoicing heart, try to grow holy, help one another, keep united, live in peace.  
Sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts.*

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*

***In this house, all must be friends, all must be loved, all must be held dear, all must be helped.***

*(Holy Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus)*



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## Report from Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

### The Truth of Election

Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

Greetings to you and yours as we begin the civil new year.

Through the Mercy of the Father we have been given the gracious gift of another year of His Grace and, because of this gracious gift, I would like to address a difficult topic that most clergy see and some encourage. That is the fact of a segment of the believing community's heartfelt call to 'purge' the Church of the 'unfaithful.'

But in order to address that concern we must first examine the truth of our 'election' and an informed understanding of that truth. By which I mean the fact that God the Father has gifted us with faith in His Mercy as revealed to us through the Paschal Mystery of His Christ. Unfortunately, as we see in the secular world, many within society equate election with entitlement. That misconception leads to problems for all involved and the consequences are far-reaching. When this misconception of 'election' enters the religious and spiritual sphere, it is catastrophic.

This topic needs addressing because it seems that there is a segment of the Catholic population whose frenetic energy seems to be focused – according to their language and demeanor – on separating the “goats from the sheep” or “wheat from the tares” – this according to a varying metric of the moment which leads to greater confusion.

Since our beginning as Church this segment has been present. We saw it immediately after the Council of Jerusalem, when a segment refused to acknowledge the authoritative Apostolic acceptance of the Gospel preached by St. Paul. Within God's inscrutable Wisdom this segment will continue to be present until the Day of Judgment, serving His greater design and purpose.

It is most unfortunate that this segment of the population is also present within the Secular Order. And this is worrisome because it is this segment that, without malice, sows mistrust, discord, and division. It is a segment that out of a well-meaning but distorted concern for being able to define 'the good guys from the bad guys,' a concern for what is 'stable' and 'right,' that sins against the most fundamental call of the Christian which is that of imitating the compassionate charity of Christ. It speaks of deeper and larger societal issues that I cannot address here.

My major concern is not the difficulties that this segment can cause in our communities, but that it points to a lack of a contemplative stance that should define our communities. This divisive 'spirit' goes against not only the prophetic call of contemplation but goes against the very fabric of our understanding of the Redeemer's work in the world through us as His Bride. Because of a lack of catechesis and formation, it goes against everything that is at the root of our history as Discalced. It is these very same 'Carmelites' who would have jailed John of the Cross and would have denounced Teresa of Jesus to the Inquisition as well as have supported the murder of Jesus for being 'lax' and 'unorthodox.'

As I have stated before, there is no malice on their part, the root of this 'spirit' is a misdirected zeal that causes communal pain through the defective understanding of our election.

It is to be understood, beyond cognitive assent, that Christ came 'to call sinners,' that is us, and that we are a Church, a community of sinners in process of being redeemed through our transformation in the Spirit. We are not a 'holiness church,' an assembly of the perfect, but a Church of sinners and saints called to perfect love and through that transformation become whole and spotless. This is

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### 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.

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## Report from Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

(Continued from page 3)

why at our celebration of our Eucharist, immediately after the Greeting, we acknowledge that we are sinners with ‘I confess...’ If we do not understand the deeper truth that this part of the ritual points to, then I would question the ability to understand the rest of the Liturgy.

This does not mean that we should be indifferent to sin, especially our own, but that we, as contemplative sons and daughters of Teresa and John, understand that the reality of living the Gospel life is much more complicated in our days. Part of true charity is the concern for our members that go astray from the greater truth, yet this is to be undertaken in true charitable concern for the well-being of the other and not the preservation of a ‘rule.’ Some of these factors were addressed in the conferences given during our ‘virtual Mini-Congress.’

I ask community leaders to be aware of this area of formation that must be addressed. A contemplative heart is not de-stabilized by the ‘fallenness’ of the world or of the fallenness of members of our Church. A contemplative is not shaken by paradox or the mysterious ways of God’s design. A contemplative heart is not judgmental or condemning. And those who exercise a role of authority should with great kindness and compassion address these issues. A contemplative heart lifts these concerns – the truth of our ‘frailty’ – up to the reckless compassion of God that we know as Christ and ask His Blessing and Healing through His Spirit.

Another question that this issue raises in my mind is that of fidelity to our time in prayer and quiet contemplation. Silence as embraced by our Order is not one of negation, but one of attentive and active listening; it speaks of an interior disposal of service to the Word we ponder. This silence is not just external, but more importantly internal – and a value of our lives. If we spend our days continually glued to a news service, or Netflix, or Dancing with the Wannabes, do you honestly believe that you will be able to silence the inner chatter and concerns when it comes time to be with the Lord in prayer?

Silence, as difficult as it is, leads a soul to an understanding of its own profundity. This self-awareness of our profundity leads us to a place of objectivity concerning the self and the world around us. This objectivity then leads us to a holy ‘living in the world without being of the world’ which in turn allows us to be faithful to the prophetic role of contemplatives.

It is very possible, as I have witnessed to my confounding, that a person spends hours ‘in prayer,’ ‘in Church,’ ‘in contemplation’ and has absolutely no self-knowledge. Teresa would question our ‘time in prayer’ if there is no growth in self-knowledge and virtue. Am I willing to question my ‘self-knowledge’ and virtue? Is it self-serving? Performance spirituality does nothing but feed the appetite of the senses and create neurosis. The personal encounter with my Groom in the silence of contemplation is what transforms hearts, souls, and worlds.

With trepidation that it will be misunderstood or abused, I close with a saying of our Holy Father St. John of the Cross that continually convicts me:

“Do not think that, because the other does not shine in the virtues you have in mind, he will not be precious in God’s sight for something of which you do not think.”

*Dichos de luz y amor, 62 [ICS Saying of Light and Love, 59]*

May the Light of the Holy Spirit inspire us to continually seek the great grace of perfecting charity so that we may be ready to greet Our Lord Jesus Christ with lighted lamps at His coming.

Fr. Stephen Sánchez, OCD  
Provincial Delegate to the OCDS



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## Farewell and Welcome—Central Office Administrator

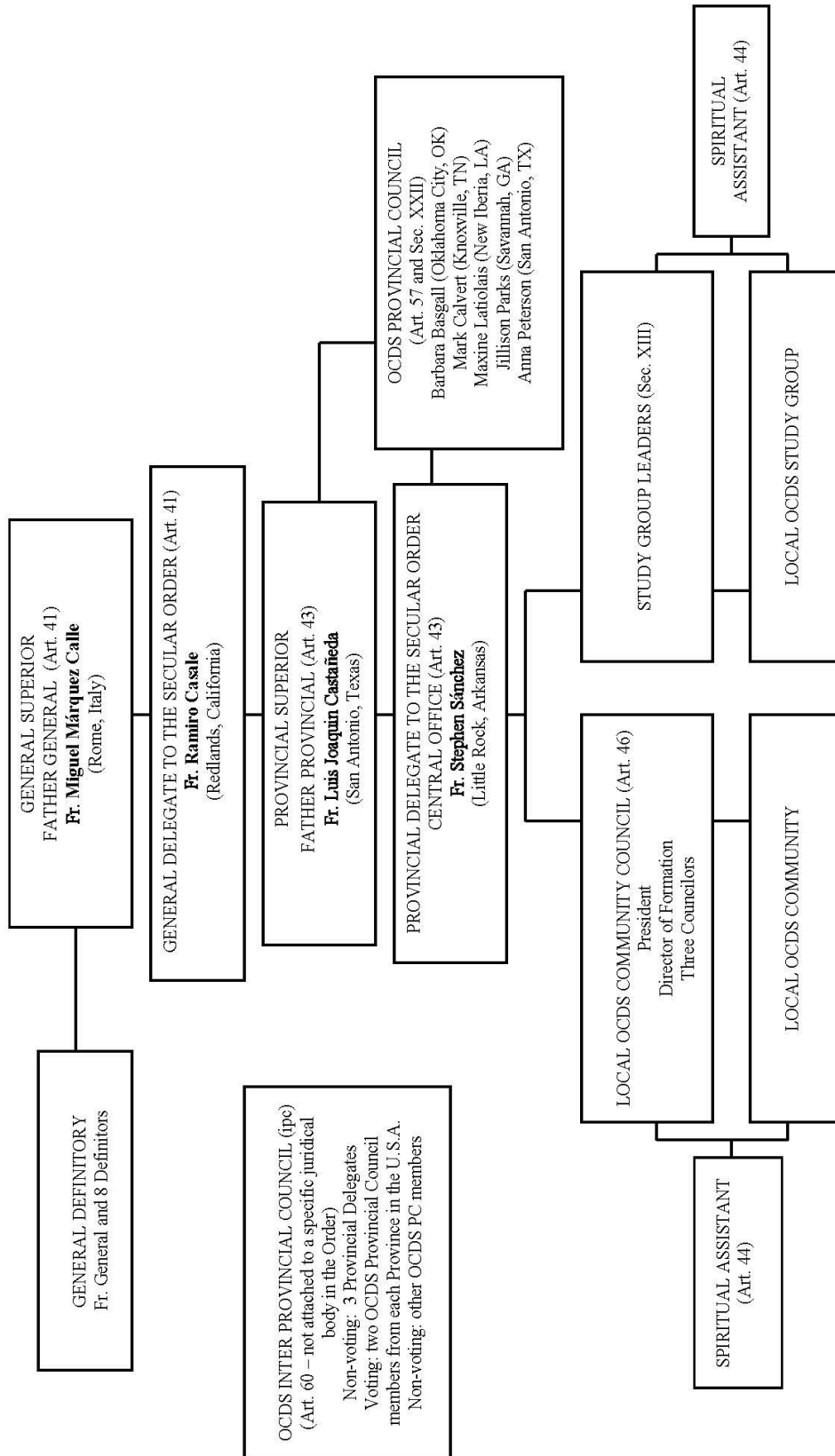


### Farewell and Welcome

The OCDS Provincial Council, along with the entire Oklahoma Province conveys sincere appreciation to Kathy Rasmussen for her outstanding service over the past several years as our Central Office Administrator. Kathy has always been eager to answer questions, to help solve an IT problem, and to immediately pray for any intentions presented to her. She kept the Provincial Council organized, distributed information to the communities in a timely manner, and truly had the patience of Job. She will be deeply missed by all of us. She remains in our prayers and always in our hearts. Kathy, thank you for everything and may God richly reward you!

Welcome to Julie Armaganian, who joins us this month as our new Central Office Administrator. Julie is a member of St. Therese, the Little Flower Community in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Julie is a network engineer and has served in a number of different roles in her OCDS community. She is excited and eager to begin her work with the Provincial Council and the Province.

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



Revised November 2021

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## OCDS Provincial Website

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

### OCDS Oklahoma Semi-Province announcement.....

**The OCDS Provincial Council is pleased and excited to announce the launch of the new OCDS Provincial website!**

**We hope you find it helpful, user friendly and informative!**

**The website is one of the goals we set for this triennium. Check it out today!**

[Discalced Carmelite Secular Order \(thereseocds.org\)](https://www.thereseocds.org)

<https://www.thereseocds.org>

Welcome to the Secular Order  
of the Oklahoma  
Semi-Province of St. Thérèse



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## News from the Province—Topeka Study Group

Submitted by Cecilia Pigg, OCDS

On a beautiful Gaudete Sunday in Topeka, Kansas, the St. Joseph and the Little Flower OCDS Study Group rejoiced with Mark Haug as he made his First Promise. Deacon Chris Seago presided on this beautiful occasion at Christ the King Church, remarking on Mary's perfect example of discipleship and obedience to God's will.



Left to right: Mark Haug, Paula Wierman, Formation Director, Deacon Chris Seago, Spiritual Assistant





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**News from the Province — St. Joseph Guardian of Carmel, Lafayette, Louisiana**  
Submitted by Datie Cespiva, OCDS

Sunday, November 21, 2021, three Aspirants from the OCDS Community of St. Joseph Guardian of Carmel in Lafayette, Louisiana, were clothed with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

In the picture below, Fr. Conley Bertrand, Spiritual Assistant, presided over the ceremony and is blessing the scapulars as Brenda Benoit, Emily Buller and Julie Buller follow along.



Left to right: Kathy Ray, Director of Formation,  
Julie Buller, Brenda Benoit, and Emily Buller

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## News from the Province—Mary, Mother of Grace, Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

On Sunday, November 14, 2021 three members from the OCDS Community of Mary, Mother of Grace in Lafayette, Louisiana professed Definitive and Temporary Promises during Evening Prayer.

In the picture below, Rev. Conley Bertrand, Spiritual Assistant, presided over the ceremony and is accepting the petitions from the members.



Definitive Promise: Rose Mary Corman and Dana Roundtree  
Temporary Promise: Donna Smith,  
Jeannine Meaux, President and Rev. Conley Bertrand, Spiritual Assistant (left to right).

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## New General Delegate for OCDS—Father Ramiro Casale, OCD



Father Ramiro Casale, OCD

The OCD General Definitory has announced the name of the new General Delegate to the OCDS, Father Ramiro Casale, OCD of the California-Arizona Province.

We ask that our Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus intercede for Father Ramiro Casale, and the entire Teresian family.

We take this opportunity to thank Father Alzinir Debastiani, OCD, for his dedication and commitment to guiding the OCDS Provinces around the world.

Thank you very much, Father Alzinir! May God abundantly reward this service rendered for the good of the Order of Carmel.



Father Alzinir Debastiani, OCD

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## Order of Discalced Carmelites

### Message of 92nd General Chapter

The 92nd General Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites was held at the La Salle House of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Rome (Via Aurelia) from August 30 to September 14, 2021. Ninety-two Chapter Fathers and four invited non-clerical Brothers attended. Technical and logistical support was provided by the officials of the Generalate and the translators. Given the various measures to avoid the spread of Covid19, it was not easy to gather all the participants in the Chapter. Thanks to the tireless commitment of the Definitory and the officials of the Center of the Order, the General Chapter took place and the participants in the Chapter were able to arrive in Italy and at the indicated place, except for four who were forced to remain in their respective countries. They followed the proceedings by Zoom.

In a Marian form of Christian existence and under the mantle of Our Lady, we felt united with all our Discalced Carmelite brothers present in all the monasteries of our Order, as well as with every one of our Discalced Carmelite nuns who accompanied us by their prayers. They carried this Chapter with particular intensity from its preparation until today and will certainly pray that good fruits may arise from it for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. We feel united with our brothers and sisters who continue the incarnation of our House of charism in all sectors of secular life. Our hearts remain close to the members of religious institutes who share the spiritual heritage of the Teresian Carmel. We do not forget the members of the ecclesial movements associated with our Order. It is with all of them that we place ourselves in the Church to deepen more and more who we are. We intend to address a message of encouragement and hope to the world in disarray, borrowing the words of Psalm 121 (120), 7-8: “The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will guard your soul. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will guard your soul. The Lord will keep you from the beginning and from the end, from now on and forever.”

To all those who are united to us by charism at whatever level, we affirm that we are also united by the responsibility to consider the “flesh of this world” that the Second Vatican Council taught us to experience as “the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this time” and to embrace them as “the joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of the disciples of Christ.” Our attitude towards what is happening in the world is not “to gather information or to satisfy our curiosity, but to become painfully aware, to dare to transform what is happening in the world into personal suffering, and thus to recognize the contribution that each one of us can make.” “The world is on fire”, St. Teresa would say; it needs peace and joy in the midst of so many vicissitudes: the Covid19 pandemic and its unknowns, economic crises of various kinds, world balances that are constantly being recomposed, threats to the peace and security of peoples and the migratory movements that they provoke, etc.

Dear brothers and sisters who recognize that they are with us under the mantle of the Virgin Mary, do we have a solution that we can offer? Our solution is the one that comes from our presence before the Lord like Abraham: “Walk in my presence and be perfect. I have made a covenant between me and you, and I will increase you greatly” (Gen. 17:1- 2). It was not, therefore, out of routine that our work was punctuated by the Eucharistic celebration, the invocation of the Holy Spirit, and the psalmody of the Church. It is in the deepening of our presence before the Lord that our being and our action in the Church draw all their meaning. St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus summed it up: “to be love in the heart of the Church.” Before her, St. John of the Cross indicated that “the love by which she is united to God moves her to the love of God in all things and through all things.” With the “artisanal” perseverance of a bee, we strive to extract from the “wildflowers,” where they are found, the sweetness (pollen) of love that makes our charism fruitful to love “God in all things, whether delightful or bitter.”

It is the deepening of this defining element of our charism that has mainly mobilized our energies in this Chapter. It could not be otherwise, for this Chapter is the culmination of a six-year period (2015-2021) during

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## Order of Discalced Carmelites

### Message of 92nd General Chapter

*(Continued from page 12)*

which we have had the joy of continuing a search undertaken by the whole Order to deepen its specific place in the life and holiness of the Church. At the same time, it constitutes a starting point for perspectives that will accompany the one we are beginning. Upon our arrival and during the Chapter, we all carried the concern that has animated the entire Order since the systematic reading of the Constitutions launched after the General Chapter of 2015. All of us, coming from the circumscriptions that had studied them, carried in our hearts an answer, however partial, to the question of our charismatic identity in the Church and how we could credibly bear witness to it in every context in which we live and work. Having manifested it in our lives, what is the way in which we might speak of it in a language that is understandable today? The Declaration on the Charism is the document that the Chapter has analyzed and approved in order to propose it to our brothers for an in-depth reception in all the circumscriptions, called to make it their own by adopting criteria and methods of reading and understanding, of interpretation and assimilation, in their environments of existence and apostolate.

The guests who were invited to the Chapter to speak to us and to celebrate the Eucharist with us spoke to us in a consistent way, each one in his own terms and way about the beauty and the demands of the Carmelite charism in today's world. We listened to them with sustained attention. We reached the culmination of this listening by virtue of its ecclesial character when we were received by Pope Francis in the Clementine Hall for a private audience. In a speech that had its roots in his own magisterium on the one hand, and in our spiritual patrimony on the other, the Holy Father briefly sketched the features of the Discalced Carmelites that the Church expects today: religious who listen to the signs of the present time, Carmelites who cultivate a sense of discernment and never tire of exercising it; witnesses who let themselves be seen by their joy nourished by a sense of humor; and all of this from the contemplative identity that bursts forth from a spirituality of friendship with God and human beings, and holds in horror the invasive worldliness that corrupts all that it affects.

It is as if the nine young guest friars from different regions had prepared us from within our walls to hear this message, because they spoke of fidelity to prayer, of the coherence between what we say and what we are, of the prophetic dimension of our life in today's world. We needed these voices to fill us with joy and to confirm us in the direction that our work was about to take in several ways, notably the doctrinal way (Declaration on the charism) and the legislative way (Norms and Determinations). The intervention of Father Míceál O'Neill, Prior General O.Carm, strengthened us once more in this direction, through a conference which drew its strong points from our common source which is the Rule of St. Albert and developed in a pattern woven by the testimony of our holy parents Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross, as well as other saints and spiritual masters who are dear to us.

From all this it can be deduced that this Chapter has been a chapter of listening. Chronologically, we were introduced to this listening by the analysis of the state of the Order given by Father Saverio Cannistrà, our previous General Superior, based on his experience of 12 years at the head of the Order. We thank him and the Definitory over which he carefully presided. It is up to us to draw concrete consequences from this. We also listened to the state of the economic means that support the functioning of our Order. Thanks to our General Bursar Paolo De Carli, not only for having communicated to us the economic needs of our time, but also for having reanimated both the spirit of solidarity in our religious family and the ardor for work.

Sometimes listening to the voices that come from outside the ecclesiastical world delights and stimulates us. Thus, the news that UNESCO is preparing to put St. Thérèse of Lisieux on the list of anniversary celebrations for the 150th anniversary of her birth in 2023 has resonated in our ears and vibrated in our hearts. For

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## Order of Discalced Carmelites

### Message of 92nd General Chapter

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our part, we link this anniversary of her birth to the first centenary of her beatification which falls in the same year and to the first centenary of her canonization in 2025. Shouldn't we read in these occurrences the sign that our listening must extend to all the voices that express in multiple ways the truth, the beauty, and the good because their origin is in God, their inspiration in the Holy Spirit? It is in this sense that the multiform listening to the voice of our Creator God whose murmur crosses all that he poses in this world spurs us towards an “integral ecology” because “everything is connected”, listening to the cry of the earth and the cry of the people, the environmental concern and the passion for the human image of God. Listening also opens our eyes so that together with all our brothers and sisters who fight tirelessly for the defense of life and human dignity, we participate in the prevention and fight against all abuses against minors and vulnerable people, as Father Vincenzo Mancusi, OFM Cap, alerted us.

This listening without borders should lead us along the path of our Mother Saint Teresa in the determination to do the little that is in us to please and help Our Lord. This is what drives us forward into the future and pushes us to place ourselves resolutely under the guidance of our Father General Miguel Márquez Calle, whom the Lord has given us together with the Definitors. It is this determination, inherited from St. Teresa, that impels us to go and live our charism in the various contexts in which the Lord has raised us up and/or sent us, strengthened by a long tradition, and enriched by the uninterrupted multitude of witnesses from all times, all cultural areas, and all ages. In today's world, with its challenges and ways of expression, we carry Christ who dwells in us, drawing us into an ever-renewed covenant through his word, his Sacraments, and his friendship. From this fullness towards which we never cease to strive, we will burn with zeal, making our own St. Teresa's words: “Let us walk together, Lord; wherever you go, I will go.”

In this march forward we feel supported by the Spirit of love and truth. We know that we are accompanied by our Discalced Carmelite Sisters who are always at our side in daily oblation and unceasing prayer. We remain in communion with our brothers and sisters of the Secular Carmel whose company delights us, and we are supported by the brothers and sisters who share in one way or another the spiritual goods of our great Carmelite family. We do not forget all those to whom the Lord sends us directly and indirectly. May the blessing imparted by the Holy Father to the participants in the General Chapter extend to all of them so that we may keep alive the flame of love that the Spirit never ceases to kindle, either by purifying us, or by making us bear together fruits whose intensity and extent only he knows!

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# Order of Discalced Carmelites

## Letter from the General Definitory of the Order



GENERAL DEFINITORY OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES

Corso d'Italia, 38  
00198 Roma – Italia

SEXENNIIUM 2021-2027 – LETTER N° 1

Rome, October 11, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Teresian Carmel:

We, the members of the new General Definitory of the Order, greet you at the beginning of the sexennium that just began. A few weeks ago, the General Chapter was finally held in Rome from August 30 to September 14. The Chapter meeting was an experience of communion, dialogue, and discernment which served to take the pulse of the life of the Order with its lights and shadows, its difficulties and its hopes. In the Chapter we were able to experience the richness of diversity, not always easy to combine with unity. We left the assembly with the hope and commitment of all to respond with strong determination to the call of the Lord to be true Discalced Carmelites today. Some of the topics that the Chapter dealt with in more detail were the Declaration on the Charism of the Teresian Carmel, the revision of some of the Norms and the initial and ongoing formation.

The Definitory elected by the General Chapter is formed by the Superior General, Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle (Iberian Province), and eight General Definitors: Agustí Borrell Viader (Iberian Province), Pius James D'Souza (Karnataka-Goa), Philbert Namphande (Navarre, Provincial Delegation of Malawi), Roberto Maria Pirastu (Semiprovince of Austria), Christianus Surinono (Commissariat of Indonesia), Martín Martínez Larios (Mexico), Christophe Marie Baudouin (Paris), Jean-Baptiste Pagabeleguem (Iberian, Provincial Delegation of West Africa).

After a first initial contact at the end of the Chapter, the Definitory held its first formal meeting October 6-9 at the General House. Philbert and Christianus were able to participate in the meeting via the Internet, while still awaiting the necessary visas to travel to Italy. We hope they will be able to be present at the next meeting which is scheduled to begin on December 6. During these days we had a first exchange of impressions and ideas and we started to plan the activities of the sexennium. First of all, we identified the priority objectives for this new stage in the life of the Order based on the reflections and decisions of the General Chapter which are largely contained in the Chapter document “Let Us Walk Together, Lord.” (This document, like other important Chapter materials, can be consulted on the Order’s website: [www.carmelitaniscalzi.com](http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com)).

One of the main goals of the sexennium is to strengthen the sense of belonging to the same family, the Teresian Carmel, of which God has called us to be part. Therefore, we will try to foster everything that nourishes communion and fraternity within the Order. In this sense, the Declaration on the Charism of the Teresian Carmel officially approved by the General Chapter, which we are now called to know, assimilate, and apply, should be of great help. We will search for the adequate means so that this important document will be a source of renewal and our life will really correspond to what God expects from us today as Discalced Carmelites at the service of the Church and humanity.

At the present time, what is especially important is formation, both initial and ongoing. Formation is a personal and communitarian task which must continue throughout life. Of course, the first stages of formation are of particular importance and must be given special attention. To this end, preferential attention should be

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## Order of Discalced Carmelites

### Letter from the General Definitory of the Order

(Continued from page 15)

given to the various aspects necessary for a good formation: discernment of vocations, establishment of formation communities, preparation of formators, etc. The General Chapter asked that the *Ratio Formationis* be revised so that it may continue to be an inspirational guide for the Order.

Other objectives that will be developed will be youth ministry and the celebration of the anniversaries of our Saints, among which are the fourth centenary of the canonization of Teresa of Jesus (2022), the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thérèse of the Child Jesus (2023) and the first centenary of her canonization (2025), the third centenary of the canonization of John of the Cross, and the first centenary of his doctorate (2026).

One of the tasks usually entrusted to the Definitors is the undertaking, in the name of the General, of pastoral visitations to the various circumscriptions of the Order. We have discussed how to carry them out and have drawn up a provisional distribution of those that will be entrusted to each one, as well as a possible calendar. Each one of the Definitors will have a specific region entrusted to him, although he will be able to visit circumscriptions in other territories. On the other hand, in some cases the visitation will be done in collaboration between two Definitors. In addition, whenever possible, the General will try to be present at the final part of the visitation, or at some point during the visitation.

On the other hand, each of the Definitors will be assigned to a specific area of work, always in coordination with the General and the Definitory. The distribution is: Agustí (Vicar General and moderator of the Curia; cultural centers, culture and ongoing formation), Pius (Secular Carmelites), Philbert (Discalced Carmelite nuns), Roberto Maria (finances and communication), Christianus (missions), Martin (initial formation), Christophe-Marie (youth ministry; ecology and creation), Jean Baptiste (initial formation and youth ministry).

Regarding the members of the General Curia whose appointment depends on the Definitory and the General, we have renewed the appointments currently in place with the possibility that some changes may be considered at a later date. We noted the advisability of continuing to seek collaborators for the General House and its various sections so that the General Government can offer an effective service. In this sense, we ask that the availability of friars and circumscriptions to collaborate with the needs of the Order not diminish.

In the case of the Delegate for the Secular Order and affiliated institutes, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani has completed his term of service in this office. We sincerely thank him for the dedication with which he has rendered a precious and effective service during these past years. In his place, we have appointed Fr. Ramiro Casale (Province of California-Arizona), who will assume his new responsibilities in the next few days.

We also made some appointments for positions that had completed their triennial term. For the permanent community of the Teresianum in Rome, we have appointed Fr. Albert Wach as Superior, Fr. Innocent Hakizimana as first councilor, and Fr. Gianni Evangelisti as bursar; for the community of specialization (Seminarium Missionum), we have appointed Fr. Johannes Gorantla as Superior.

Since two of the Definitors elected by the General Chapter were active Provincials, the General Definitory, after consultation with the respective Provincial Councils (cf. Constitutions 198), has appointed Fr. George Santhumayor as Provincial of Karnataka-Goa and Fr. Guillaume Dehorter as Provincial of Paris.

We are grateful to the General Treasurer for the initial information he gave us on the economic situation and on practical questions related to the economic administration of the centers and entities dependent on the General Government. We also thank the Procurator General for the information on the work entrusted to him and on some of the issues that need to be dealt with by the Vatican dicasteries.

(Continued on page 17)



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## Order of Discalced Carmelites

### Letter from the General Definitory of the Order

*(Continued from page 16)*

The Definitory also dealt with concrete questions on which a decision was required. We approved the collaboration agreements between the Provinces of Iberia and Avignon-Aquitaine (for Senegal), and between the Provinces of Central Italy and Karnataka-Goa, as well as between the Commissariats of Sicily and Madagascar. We also granted permission for works in some houses of the Iberian Province. We also expressed our support for the request of the French bishops to study the possibility of an equipollent canonization (without the need for a miracle) for the martyrs of Compiègne.

At the end of the first meeting of the new General Definitory, we renew our desire and our commitment to live at the service of the whole Order—friars, nuns and laity—in the sincere recognition of our littleness and trusting in the closeness of all of you and in your prayer to the Lord so that he may help us to always seek his will and the good of the whole family of the Teresian Carmel.

As we approach the feast of our mother Teresa of Jesus, we ask her to accompany us with her intercession to be in our time faithful and creative followers of the lifestyle that she began. With her, and like her, may we always be able to say, “Let us walk together, Lord!”

Fraternally,

P. Miguel Márquez Calle, General  
P. Agustí Borrell  
P. Pius James D’Souza  
P. Philbert Namphande  
P. Roberto Maria Pirastu  
P. Christianus Surinono  
P. Martín Martínez Larios  
P. Christophe Marie Baudouin  
P. Jean-Baptiste Pagabeleguem

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## Carmelite Obituaries



**Bernadita Flaughter, OCDS**

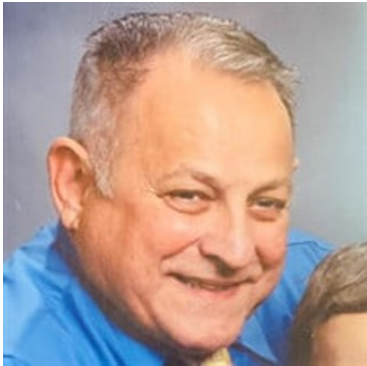
**9/30/1951 – 9/29/2021**

**Community of St. Therese of the Little Flower  
Lawrenceville, Georgia**

Submitted by Lucia Gesuelle, OCDS

On September 29, 2021, Bernadita Flaughter, a member of St. Therese of the Little Flower Community of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was called to enter eternity to be united with Jesus. She died one day before her seventieth birthday. Bernadita loved her vocation as a wife, mother, and grandmother. Her love spilled over to her Carmelite community. Bernadita was gifted in sewing and made the community ceremonial scapulars, banner, and decorated the church hall for community ritual celebrations.

On July 11, 2015, Bernadita made her Definitive Promise, taking as her devotional name, Bernadita Therese Benedicta of the Cross. She was on Infirm Status since 2018 due to her poor health. Funeral services were held October 7, 2021 at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Grovetown, Georgia where she was a faithful member. Bernadita is survived by her husband, John, who was serving in the Navy in Guam where they met.



**Paul L. Martinez, OCDS**

**June 29, 1940 to August 19, 2021**

**San Juan de la Cruz Community  
Houston, Texas**

Submitted by Denise Graham, OCDS

Paul Martinez was a military veteran and served in the U.S. Army for 24 years. After retiring from the Army, he worked in Civil Service for 23 years. In 1993, Paul became a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel community in San Antonio, Texas. Paul served as financial secretary during his time at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Paul and his wife Lolita helped to clean the Little Flower Basilica for many years and attended daily Mass at the Basilica.

In 2008, Paul and Lolita moved to Houston, Texas and became members of the San Juan de la Cruz Community. Paul and Lolita were faithful members of the San Juan de la Cruz Community. Paul was a loving and generous man and will be greatly missed by his wife Lolita, his daughter, grandchildren and the San Juan de la Cruz and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Communities.

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## Carmelite Obituaries



### **Thomas (Tom) Michael Grossheim, OCDS**

#### **St. Louis, Missouri Community**

Submitted by Candy Kunzelman, OCDS

Thomas Michael Grossheim, passed into eternity on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. He was 51 years old.

Thomas began his journey in Carmel at the St. Louis Community in 2010. He was clothed on October 16, 2011 and made First Promise on November 17, 2013, taking the name Joseph of the Annunciation. Thomas made his Final Promise on November 19, 2016. He had a deep love for God and a wisdom that grew from that union. Thomas served two terms on the Council from March 2014 to March 2020. His peaceful and serene spirit was a living example of the fruit that comes from surrendering to God's will and trusting in His love for us. In life, Thomas was devoted to his wife Jeanne and their children as well as his Carmelite family. He also served as a youth minister at his church parish. His Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton, Illinois. Interment followed at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Alton.



### **Aurelia "Ya" Berard Guirard, OCDS**

**October 11, 1924 – December 4, 2021**

#### **Mary, Beloved of the Trinity, New Iberia, Louisiana**

Submitted by Maxine Latiolais, OCDS

Memorial services was held for Aurelia "Ya" Berard Guirard, age 97, on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, St. Martinville, Louisiana. Burial followed at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Aurelia passed away on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Landmark of Acadiana.

Born on October 11, 1924 to the late Anicet and Aurelia Berard, Aurelia was one of twelve children. She was a devout Catholic and faithful parishioner of St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, where she was a member of the Catholic Daughters for over fifty years. Aurelia was member of the Order of Discalced Carmelites and was clothed in 1983, made her First Promise in 1985, and her Definitive Promise in 1988. She also professed a vow in 1990. She served as community secretary from 1994 to 1997. She is survived by her daughter, Suzanne G. Theis.



## *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](mailto: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.

*"Beginners must realize that in order to give delight to the Lord they are starting to cultivate a garden on very barren soil, full of abominable weeds. His Majesty pulls up the weeds and plants good seed. Now let us keep in mind that all of this is already done by the time a soul is determined to practice prayer and has begun to make use of it. And with the help of God we must strive like good gardeners to get these plants to grow and take pains to water them so that they don't wither but come to bud and flower and give forth a most pleasant fragrance to provide refreshment for this Lord of ours. Then He will often come to take delight in this garden and find His joy among these virtues."*

— from "The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila, Vol. 1 (featuring The Book of Her Life, Spiritual Testimonies and the Soliloquies)"

## 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 for the 2020-2023 Triennium:**

**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**