

March 6, 2006

Dear Carmelites,

In October, 2002, shortly after assuming my responsibilities as Provincial Delegate, I called together a representative group of presidents of local OCDS communities for the purpose of identifying the needs of the Secular Carmelites for the coming years. The following January, we held a meeting of the directors of formation, in order to understand what was happening with regard to formation throughout the province at that time, and to learn from them the ways in which I might assist the local communities with their formation needs. That meeting gave rise to the establishment of the provincial task force on formation, which was charged with the task of writing uniform formation guidelines for the communities and groups within the province.

The task force is composed of myself and ten definitively professed members of the Order, selected from nominations made by the presidents and group leaders. We sought to establish good geographical representation of the province on the task force as well as a balance of range of experience. The other members of the task force are: Mary Lou Cereghino from West Covina, California; Doreen Glynn-Pawski from San Francisco; Toni Hagey, from Las Vegas; Rebecca Lambert, then with the Eugene, Oregon community and now with the Sacramento, California community; Thomas Moore from the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho community, and secretary for extended members; Cindy Sliger, from Seattle, Washington; Theresa Thomas from Berkeley, California; Mary Tucker from San Jose, California; Sharon Young from Denver, Colorado; and Pat Thibodeaux, who was then serving as my secretary. Theresa agreed to serve as coordinator.

The task force held its first meeting in August, 2003 at our House of Prayer in Oakville, California, and has met quarterly since then, despite the great distances various members needed to travel and other obstacles that had to be overcome.

After our Constitutions were adopted, Fr. Aloysius Deeney, General Delegate, asked all the provinces to write formation programs to be adopted by the OCDS Provincial Councils as part of the local statutes under the Constitutions. We were already well on our way with this important work. It was clear at that point, however, that the task force should answer to our OCDS Provincial Council from then on. Accordingly, last Spring the task force presented a draft of its work to the Provincial Council for suggestions.

In this volume we are pleased to present to you on behalf of the task force the fruit of our labor. Your experience in implementing these *Guidelines* will probably bring to light many ways in which they can be improved, but now we have a foundation on which to build. Please join us in praising and thanking God for this new expression of his loving care for our Carmelite vocations.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Father Patrick Sugrue, OCD  
Provincial Delegate

Chris Hart, OCDS  
President, Provincial Council