



DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph

May 25, 2017

St. Mary Magdalene De' Pazzi

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Secular Order in the Western United States,

We send greetings from our 2017 Provincial Chapter, gathered May 16-25 at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, California. We have often thought of you and prayed for you during these days, and we are deeply grateful for your prayers for us!

During our Chapter, we heard Fr. Donald Kinney's comprehensive report on the Secular Order in our Province. Fr. Donald began his report by thanking the Carmelite priests and brothers who serve as Spiritual Assistants to your communities and groups. He said that a good Carmelite Spiritual Assistant is a great source of strength in a community. He also thanked our friars who give O.C.D.S. retreats and days of recollection.

Fr. Donald told us that there are now over 2,000 professed O.C.D.S. members in 45 canonically established communities, 21 groups, and 5 study groups, 71 in all, four more than last triennium.

He said that the great Secular Order event of this triennium was the O.C.D.S. Western Regional Congress held in San Jose, June 23-26, 2016. A record 527 Carmelites attended. Attendance at our Congresses has been increasing by over 100 people each time. In San Jose, a large number of our priests and brothers were able to attend. They were greatly enriched by the experience. Our Province's next Congress will be held June 20-23, 2019 in Ontario, California.

Fr. Donald updated us on the tremendous work of the O.C.D.S. Provincial Council, which is an indispensable support to the Provincial Delegate and to the Province.

You Secular Carmelites are a wonderful inspiration to us as you strive to live out your vocation for the Church and the world. We are one family, as our Constitutions and yours both state—as we experience again and again.

We also want to thank you for your continuing prayers and financial support for all our communities, particularly for our novitiate in San Jose, our House of Studies in Mt. Angel, and our Mission in Uganda. We pray that this new generation of friars will help us work more closely with you to build up the Carmelite family and the Church.

Fraternally in Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

Your Brothers in Carmel