

OCDS NEWSLETTER



California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph



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Praised be Jesus Christ!

January is passing by quickly, but I still wish you a blessed new year! I missed out on sending Christmas greetings, but I do want you to know that I've just offered a novena of Masses for all of you, your families, and your intentions. I'm deeply grateful for your prayers and support for me all through the year. May this new year of grace bring us closer to the Lord and to each other in our wonderful Carmelite vocation.

The OCDS Provincial Council met on December 4-6 at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville, California. We spent most of the weekend doing more planning for our Leadership Training Conference to be held this March 12-15 at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands. I'm happy to announce that almost all the communities and groups in the Province are sending a representative. As this newsletter goes to press, it looks like the retreat house will be full. We will surely learn much to take back to our communities and groups.

Because of my responsibilities to the Secular Order and now as prior of my community in San Jose, I'm not able to respond quickly enough to those of you who contact me. At our recent OCDS Provincial Council meeting, we said that we should emphasize to you again that you can always contact one of our other provincial councilors for help. For administrative questions, you may contact Emma Forlanda, our new Central Office secretary. I'm always glad to be of service, but unfortunately I'm often slow. (An updated listing of our councilors and OCD Central Office secretary is shown below.)

Very soon you will be receiving a special first edition of a new "OCDS Congress Newsletter" that will help promote our next OCDS Western Regional Congress to be held in Portland, Oregon, June 20-23, 2013. The Congress co-chairpersons, Lee Ann Trunk and Alice Gustafson, and I will be announcing the Congress theme, speakers, and other exciting information.

For the first time, El Carmelo Retreat House will be offering an intensive retreat exclusively for definitively professed OCDS members. The dates are October 3-7, 2012. The retreat master will be Fr. Michael Berry, OCD, who resides at Holy Hill, Wisconsin. Fr. Michael is vocation director for the Washington Province. He spent two years studying at the Carmelite Institute of Teresian and Sanjuanist Studies (CITES) in Avila, Spain. Because of the limited number of rooms available for this retreat, please register early. The cost of this retreat is \$275, with a \$50 deposit. A brochure will be available soon. For other information now, call Nellie Lara, El Carmelo retreat coordinator, at (909) 792-1047; or e-mail her at elcarmelorch@gmail.com.

As for the previous issues of this e-mail newsletter, I ask each community and group to be sure that all of your members receive a personal copy. It is not enough to post one copy on a bulletin board for everyone to read. Someone should also be designated to send copies to your extended and infirm members. I get inquiries about our newsletter from extended and infirm members who want to stay in touch. Please help us get these newsletters to each of them.

Gratefully yours in Carmel,
Father Donald Kinney, OCD
Provincial Delegate

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