

OCDS NEWSLETTER



California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph



Volume 8, Issue 2

October 2012

The OCDS Provincial Council has been asked for guidance regarding an attendance policy. The following will become part of our *Provincial Statutes*:

Attendance Policy

“Attendance at the monthly meetings is required” (*Provincial Statutes*, Sec. XIII, #4). However, sometimes there are unavoidable demands on the secular state of life that prevent a member from being present. For communities and groups, a minimum of nine out of twelve meetings each year is required to progress to the next stage of formation. Attendance at a minimum of nine out of twelve meetings prior to the elections is required for voting within a community. The council may allow reasonable exceptions, such as for a lengthy illness (cf. *Provincial Statutes* Sec. X, #2).

There have also been requests for a visitor’s policy. The provincial council has written the following sample visitor’s policy:

Visitor’s Policy

Visitors will preferably have a conversation with the president or director of formation before attending their first meeting. During this conversation, they will be introduced to the Carmelite Secular way of life and what is required to become a member. The schedule of the portion of the meeting-day they are invited to attend will be outlined along with the expectations for their participation.

Visitors can benefit from continuing attendance at meetings while waiting for an aspirancy class to begin. There will be someone assigned to guide them through the meeting, unless they have already come with a member. During this period, visitors may have the option of attending the ongoing formation class. They should not attend the business meeting while confidential matters, such as the treasurer’s report, are discussed. Once the council has approved the visitor to begin an aspirant’s formation class, he/she must either join the aspirancy class or no longer come to meetings.

We ask that your council write both an attendance and visitor’s policy for your community/group and send them to us no later than February 14th, 2013, for approval by the OCDS Provincial Council. Please send them to Rebecca Lambert, OCDS, Provincial Council Secretary, 2778 SW Fairview Blvd, Portland, OR 97205 or by e-mail at lambertrebecca@hotmail.com.

Vocations

To promote vocations to the OCDS, you can download our brochure and add your contact information where there is space for it at <http://ocds.info/brochure.pdf>.

We have posted a booklet under the “Helps & Tips” section on our website at <http://www.ocds.info>. It is called *My Formation* and contains only 34 pages of our OCDS Formation Guidelines for the California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph. It is an aid to help throughout the process of formation.

Our personal accountability is supported by having ready access to the expectations for each stage of formation. This booklet includes goals and objectives for each stage, tracking forms, evaluation forms, and resources. It will assist in learning and internalizing what it means to be a Secular Order Carmelite so we can live it. “The central object of the process of formation in the Secular Order is to prepare the person to live the charism and spirituality of Carmel in its following of Christ, and in service to its mission” (Constitutions 32).

Messages on 450th Anniversary

Please go to our website at <http://www.ocds.info> and scroll down to read two messages: One is from Pope Benedict XVI and the other from our Superior General, Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, OCD.



More news about the Portland OCDS Western Regional Congress will be coming your way very soon in the next edition of the “Congress Chronicles.” Most communities and groups are already taking up voluntary collections for partial or even full scholarships for members to attend. As we have already announced, our Congress website will be ready on December 1, 2012, for information and registration.

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