

Message to the O.C.D.S. from the California-Arizona Provincial Chapter

Dear Secular Carmelite Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in Christ and His Mother from the 2014 Provincial Chapter, assembled May 13-22 at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, California.

All of you have been very much in our thoughts and prayers these days, and we are deeply grateful for your prayers for us.

During our Chapter, we heard Fr. Donald Kinney's thorough report on the Secular Order in our Province. He told us that there are now over 2,000 professed OCDS members in 40 canonically established communities, 23 groups, and 5 study groups, 68 in all. He said that the great Secular Order event of this triennium was the OCDS Western Regional Congress held in Portland, Oregon, June 20-23, 2013. A large number of our priests and brothers were able to attend and were inspired by the experience. He updated us on the tremendous work of the OCDS Provincial Council, which is great support to the Provincial Delegate and to the Order.

In his report, Fr. Donald especially thanked those Carmelite priests and brothers who serve as Spiritual Assistants to your communities and groups. He said that a good Carmelite Spiritual Assistant is a much-needed influence in a community. He also thanked our friars who give OCDS retreats and days of recollection.

You Secular Carmelites are a wonderful inspiration to us as you strive to live out your vocation in the Church and in the world. We are one family, as our Constitutions and yours 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 House of Studies in Mt. Angel and for our Mission in Uganda. Please God, our new generation of friars will help us work more closely with you to build up the Carmelite family and the Church.

As we move toward the 500th anniversary of the birth of Holy Mother Teresa in 2015, may we all be renewed in our Carmelite calling, under the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Joseph, and St. Teresa herself. God bless you all!

Fraternally,

Your Brothers in Carmel