



OCDS PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph

Dear OCDS Brothers and Sisters,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

We are happy to present to you this first “OCDS Provincial Newsletter” of the year. What a year of grace 2015 already is! Last month the world was edified by Pope Francis’ triumphant visit to the Philippines. God has more blessings in store for us in this 500th Birthday Year of St. Teresa. Also Pope Francis has announced that in September he will visit Philadelphia and New York and will canonize Bl. Junipero Serra at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Our OCDS

Provincial Council met October 31-November 2 at Mount Saint Joseph in San Jose, where we welcomed our new members Lee Ann Trunk (Portland) and Amy Holmes (Alhambra). Our contact information is listed on page 4. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us if we can help you. We are here for you!

This triennium our Provincial Council has taken as a mission statement these lines from our General Definitory’s letter 22 (see www.ocds.info) which challenges our Carmelite family with a call to action:



Left to right: Lucy Okoh, OCDS; Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD; Cheri Kluever, OCDS; Amy Holmes, OCDS; Erin Foord, OCDS and Lee Ann Trunk, OCDS.

“Our mission is to awaken a dynamism that will transform the way we live as sons and daughters of St. Teresa, so that we may contribute to awakening the world to a new way of living, one that is possible and that we can incarnate, and which will enable us to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the people of today.”

In this and future issues of this “Provincial Newsletter”, read how we can better understand and “incarnate” this mission.

**WE'RE
COUNTING
ON YOU!**

Thank you again for the responses for Fr. Alzinir's questionnaire in preparation for the **Friars' General Chapter in May of this year**. By now we hope our summary of all the responses has been read at your community meeting. These responses are important because they let us know what is happening in your individual communities and also what are the concerns of the Province at large. We are already acting to reach out better to you. For your part, **we're counting on you to make copies of this “Newsletter” for all your members, including your extended members. Staying in touch is evangelization!**

**Leadership
Training
Conference 2015**

We are working hard to prepare for our **Leadership Training Conference March 16-19 in Redlands**. One person from almost every one of our fifty-seven communities and groups has registered. El Carmelo Retreat House will be full!

**OCDS CONGRESS
2016**

Very soon you will be receiving the first issue of our new **“Congress Chronicles”** to promote the exciting **OCDS Western Regional Congress in San Jose, June 23-26, 2016**. There is also much interest in the 2015 OCDS National Congress to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 14-17, 2015. For more information see: www.2015ocdsnationalcongress.com.



Beginning with this Newsletter, we would like to offer suggestions called “Best Practices”. Here are some ways your community can celebrate St. Teresa's 500th Centenary: Her actual 500th birthday is March 28, but on any day this year plan a special Mass for your parish and others, even using the votive Mass of St. Teresa (now posted on www.ocds.info under “Miscellaneous”). You could organize an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, perhaps with a few texts by St. Teresa on the Eucharist. Your community could pray a Novena to St. Teresa for vocations to Carmel, also on our website under “Miscellaneous”. On one of your meeting days, why not have a birthday cake and sing “Happy Birthday” to St. Teresa!

*Soon
to be
Saints*

We are rejoicing that the Holy See has announced the approval of the canonizations of Bl. Mary of Jesus Crucified and of Bl. Louis and Zélie Martin. The dates for these ceremonies have not been released. We highly recommend these books:

Mariam, The Little Arab (1846-1878) by Amédée Brunot, translated by Sr. Miriam of Jesus, OCD. A new edition of this book is on sale for \$9 (not including postage) at: Carmel of Maria Regina, 87609 Green Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402. Telephone: (541) 345-8649.

A Call to a Deeper Love: The Family Correspondence of the Parents of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1863-1885), translated by Ann Hess and Dr. Frances Renda. \$29.95 plus postage.

www.stpauls.us or 1-800-343-2522.

Inspiration from our “soon-to-be-Saints”

Prayer to the Holy Spirit by Bl. Mary of Jesus Crucified

Holy Spirit, inspire me.
Love of God, consume me.
To the right road, lead me.
Mary my mother, look down upon me.
With Jesus, bless me.
From all evil, from all illusion, from all danger, preserve me. Amen.

Excerpts from a letter of Bl. Zélie Martin to Céline Guérin, her sister-in-law

March 30, 1873

My dear sister, I'm sorry to hear of the fire you told me about. When I think of all the trouble my brother went through to organize his drug business and, in an instant, to see all his efforts lost. One must have a great deal of faith and resignation to accept this setback without complaint and with submission to God's will.

As for me, I feel the consequences of this misfortune. This, joined with the tribulations I already have, has taken away my courage. I just wrote a letter to my little girls that is hardly going to delight them. I just spoke to them about your disaster and the troubles of this world. It's true that each person has a cross to bear, but there are some for whom it is heavier than others. My dear sister, you've already begun to see that life is not a bed of roses. God wills this to detach us from the world and raise our thoughts to Heaven.

Yesterday, while going to the doctor to see my little Thérèse, who is very sick, I noticed a beautiful château and some magnificent properties. I said to myself that all of that is nothing. We'll only be happy when all of us, we and our children, are reunited in Heaven, and I offered up my child to God...

I hope, my dear sister, that you won't be long in giving me the details of your accident and telling me how you're going to set up business again. I know you put your confidence in God. That makes me believe that you'll come through this bad time much better than you think. Madame

Inspiration from our "soon-to-be-Saints" (cont'd)

Tifenne seems much happier than you. She lives only for luxury and pleasure. She gives balls in mid-Lent. And yet would you believe that I prefer to see you with your adversity than to suppose that you, like her, are forgetting Heaven for the brief pleasures of the world. Goodbye, my dear sister, give a big hug to your dear little girls for me. Tell my brother that I'm going to ask the Poor Clares to say a novena so that the disaster will be repaired quickly and do you the least possible harm. In other words, for all that you need.

Bl. Junipero Serra, on his first journey to Upper California from Mexico, 1769

"I trust that God will give me the strength to reach San Diego, as He has given me the strength to come so far. In case He does not, I will conform myself to His most holy will. Even though I should die on the way, I shall not turn back. They can bury me wherever they wish, and I shall gladly be left among the pagans, if it be the will of God.

**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you for sending us your \$35 dues and financial report this month ("Provincial Statutes", Sec. XXIII, #2). We prefer you send these dues as a community, rather than individually. **Please make checks payable to "OCDS Central Office" and send them to Fr. Donald in Redlands.**

May they rest in peace!



We appreciate your prayers for **Fr. Richard Mandoli, OCD**, who was killed in a car accident in San Jose on January 4. Fr. Richard had been in charge of the Pious Union of St. Thérèse. Also **Fr. Kevin McArdle, OCD** died on January 15 in Duarte, California. Fr. Kevin served at our Carmelite parishes in Tucson for decades.

We very much appreciate your prayers! You can always count on ours!

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