

Fr. Matthias of the Immaculate Heart is the Vocation Direction of our Province, and here is his encouragement for praying for vocations. Fr. Matthew Williams, OCD

JM+JT

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Hello OCDS daughters and sons of St. Teresa!

This brief note is both to encourage you and to make an appeal for your prayers.

First of all, please know how proud I am of you all! For our Province of St. Joseph to have 2,000 or so Secular Carmelites living the charism throughout the Western U.S. is a wonderful work of the Holy Spirit and a powerful channel of grace. Let's periodically call to mind our family bond in Carmel and the spiritual unity we enjoy. Though the limitations and concerns of our changed society may start to wear on us, know that you are loved, you are in my prayer, and you are equipped by our good Lord to bring many souls to Him.

Second of all, I wish to make an appeal for your prayers. How powerful our prayer becomes when it is united with other members of Christ's Body! Jesus tells us in Matthew 9:38, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; **so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.**" Jesus simply commands us to ask. So, here I am, asking all of you to unite with us friars in even more fervent prayer for holy and generous vocations to our province. Perhaps your current offerings for vocations may be intensified by some sacrifice or fasting (health permitting). Traditionally, Wednesdays are especially held by our friars to honor St. Joseph along with prayers for vocations through his intercession. Thank you in advance for responding to this call!

Among the pictures that I've included for you include one of Fr. Philip (behind the camera) offering a benediction with our good Lord in the Blessed Sacrament from the bell tower of St. Therese Parish, Alhambra, along with three pictures of various vocation activities from the past year.

Gathered with you all under the mantle of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Matthias of the Immaculate Heart, O.C.D.
Vocation Director

510 N. El Molino St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 282-2744, ext 224









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