



Office of the Provincial Superior
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph

August 28th, 2020
Memorial of St. Augustine of Hippo

Dear OCDS Members of the Discalced Carmelite Province of California – Arizona:

During these days of our Provincial Chapter, the OCDS members of our Province are very much in our minds and hearts. We give thanks to God for your vocation as Discalced Carmelites Seculars, for as the OCDS Constitutions state:

Carmelite Seculars, together with the Friars and Nuns, are sons and daughters of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Teresa of Jesus. As a result, they share the same charism with the religious, each according to their particular state of life. (OCDS Const. N.1)

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and support over these many years, and we assure you of our own continued prayers, that Our Lord will continue to bless you with His grace to live out your vocation in faith, hope and love, uniting yourselves to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, who watches over her Carmelite family and intercedes for each of us.

We wish to offer our prayers and encouragement, or rather, to engage in mutual prayer and support. All of us, Friars, Nuns and Seculars are called upon to pray for this world of ours, wounded in so many ways, and offer our prayers for that healing and peace that comes only through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also pray for the comfort of the Holy Spirit upon all who have experienced loss during this time of pandemic and implore the continuing protection and intercession of St. Joseph.

We are grateful for the example of your calling to live the spirituality of Carmel in the secular world of today. There are many challenges that you face in living your Carmelite life, but with patient endurance, you continue to persevere in your vocation and give great witness to the Risen Christ.

As members of this great Discalced Carmelite family, let us always pray for one another, aware of the intercession of St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, giving thanks and praise to God in thought, word and deed, knowing as we do so, we are fulfilling God's will for our lives and proclaiming the Good News to the world around us as a united family of Carmel.

Your Carmelite brothers of the Discalced Carmelite Provincial Chapter of 2020

