



OCDS Provincial Newsletter

California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph

August 2024

Published by the O.C.D.S. Provincial Council

O.C.D.S. Leadership Workshop, Redlands, CA



Praised be Jesus Christ! The Discalced Carmelite Seculars California-Arizona Province Leadership Workshop was held on May 14-17, 2024, at the El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands California. Our community presidents, and formation directors were encouraged, exhorted, and supported to transform our OCDS Communities by living out the Beatitudes, praying and leading the Liturgy of the Hours, and living our vocation through the virtues of humility, obedience, and love. We should love our community members by holding them dear and being of service to them through transformational leadership and discernment of vocations. We were encouraged to make God known and loved in the world through our OCDS apostolates.

Thanks to Father Adam Gregory Gonzales, our Provincial Delegate, Jim Dowd our Provincial Council President, and the Provincial Council. Special thanks to Ginny Morton who organized the Workshop and to Cherry Caparas for pinch hitting, and the El Carmelo Retreat House staff. Finally, we want to thank all of the Presidents and Formation Directors for attending and the local Councils and members who support them. Be assured of the Provincial Council's love and prayerful support. Please contact your regional Provincial Council Representative, if you have any questions.

Live Stream Provincial-wide Conference

REMINDER

Saturday, August 17, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Live-stream Conference on YouTube

Website link to follow week of the event.

Bro. Juan de la Cruz Torres, O.C.D.

Prayer is a Journey for Life

Introduction to the Life of Saint Teresa

The conference will only be available as a live stream. It will not be available after the event.

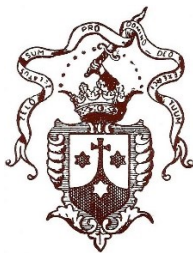
Guidance for Seculars from the Ratio on Membership in Other Groups with Distinct Spiritualities

Ratio 63 states: ***A divine call is always a mysterious grace that cannot be reduced to a list of qualities. But there are certain qualities that indicate that a person is essentially suited to the vocation of a Secular Carmelite.*** Ratio 64, 65, and 66 go on to list some of these qualities.

Ratio 67 then addresses counter indications, and the one being specifically addressed here is: ***membership of organizations with a distinct spiritual path.***

Examples of associations with different spiritualities would include the Franciscan Order, the Order of Malta, and the Legion of Mary. If someone feels called to Carmel and is coming to a O.C.D.S. community to explore this spiritual path, it should be explained to them that the life of a Carmelite Secular is a vocation that has a unique spirituality, and members cannot belong to other such groups. They need to be advised they cannot belong to both and will eventually need to pray and discern about the direction of the journey God is calling them to prior to a Carmelite promise.

If any community discovers that a promised/vowed person belongs to a conflicting spiritual group, the leader should contact their Regional Provincial Councillor for procedural information.



2025 OCDS Congress

Saint Thérèse and the Eucharist

“By His presence I am a living Monstrance”

June 19-22, 2025

Hyatt Regency - Phoenix, Arizona

REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO COME IN JANUARY 2025

The Province-wide raffle for the 2025 OCDS Congress is ongoing. We are asking OCDS members to participate and support this fundraising effort. Donations from Communities and Groups are also welcome and appreciated. The proceeds will go directly toward lowering the cost of the Congress registration fee to help make it more accessible to all the members of our Province.

Raffle ticket stubs and donations must be received by Saturday, August 24 to qualify. **The drawing will take place on Monday, August 26.**

Please make donation checks payable to **Discalced Carmelite Seculars** and mail with the raffle stubs to:

Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D.

300 Humpert Lane, NE

Mount Angel, OR 97362

For additional raffle tickets or any questions, please email: OCDSCongressCoordinator@gmail.com. Thank you to all who have already sent in their Raffle tickets.

We count on your prayers for the success of our Congress. May God reward you for your support!

Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D.
OCDS Provincial Delegate

Cherry Caparas, O.C.D.S.
Provincial Congress Coordinator

John Delaney, O.C.D.S.
Phoenix Community Organizer

Welcome to Our New “St. Joseph, Protector of the Family Study Group”

We are happy to announce the approval of a new Study Group that is located in Wenatchee, Washington. The new Study Group will be called, “*St. Joseph, Protector of the Family Study Group.*”

The Study Group Leader, Teresa Drollman, O.C.D.S., worked tirelessly to bring together a group of people as a Book Study a few years ago. There are currently nine members that have been part of the group since it started. These members have developed a caring community due largely in part to the guidance of Teresa.

Welcome to all! We are blessed to have you as part of the greater O.C.D.S. community and our Province.

Reno Group Visit



Fr. Adam Gregory and Jeanne Brown (Provincial Councillor for the Southwest Region) visited the Reno Group on July 13th for their monthly meeting. Thanks to the Reno Group for their gracious hospitality.

Reminder—Money Matters

A reminder to everyone that all community/group bank accounts are to be held in the name of the community/group. Likewise, all disbursements must be made through that same bank account. No community account may be in the name of an individual member, nor is it permissible to co-mingle OCDS funds with the personal funds of any member(s). More to the point, no member may hold OCDS funds in their own personal bank account.

All OCDS bank accounts should have two members as signatories, one of whom should be the treasurer. Whenever any cash is handled, two persons should be present when the monies are counted, one of which should be the treasurer. Constitution #55 states that the duty of the Treasurer is to take charge of the administration of the funds of the community. The Treasurer is to present a report of the funds to the Council every six months, and to the community and the Provincial Delegate once a year. Provincial Statutes Sec. XX No. 3 requires that the annual financial report to the Provincial Delegate shall be submitted no later than February 28th of each year.

Anyone who handles money for their community is reminded that they are called to be good stewards of finances and guardians against any liability which puts the non-profit status of the community or Province at risk.

Assistance for Small Groups

During the OCDS Leadership Workshop in May, there were several questions by group leaders requesting additional information and assistance concerning how small groups can accomplish everything larger groups and canonically established communities are called to do. These questions covered areas dealing with formation, how different levels of formation can progress when there are insufficiently professed members to have an adequate number of established formators, how to best divide the four hours of meeting time into effective segments with only a few people. How do we have community formation if there is no one to speak? Can someone who is not definitively professed be a formator? How can we open a bank account with small amounts of money in our collection of dues? How does a small group council run efficiently?

Jim Dowd, the Provincial Council President and the Regional Representative for the Mountain Region, has always belonged to small groups and has helped other groups with these types of questions. Jim is willing to be of assistance to any small group leader within our Province who desire such support. For further information you may contact him at:

jimdowdocds@gmail.com.

Pacific Northwest Region Leaders at the Provincial Workshop



Young OCDS Young Adult Virtual Group

The Provincial Council and I have given an exceptional permission for Kailash to explore the beginnings of this group. We believe that it will be very beneficial to support our younger members in their OCDS vocations. Ordinarily, we don't have separate groups in our OCDS communities or Province. (This could easily promote cliques or division.) So, please keep in mind that the Provincial Council and I have discerned this, and prayed about it, very seriously. No other separate groups will be permitted – Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D.

To OCDS members throughout our Province,

My name is Kailash, and I am a member of the OCDS Holy Spirit Community in Denver, Colorado. My wife, Lily, and I treasure our community and fellow Carmelites, yet discover ourselves in a unique position and are reaching out to others who might find they too are in similar circumstances and facing relatable challenges in our secular lives.

We are blessed to be part of this wonderful community and greatly enjoy our monthly meetings. However, we find we are in a younger age bracket and at a different stage of life than most other members of our community. We both came to Carmel through independent journeys out of love for the writings of its saints and the Carmelite charism of prayer. Currently, we are very excited to announce our province, with the guidance and blessings of Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales and the Provincial Council, is assisting us to initiate a meeting to start a new virtual group for any OCDS members in the 40ish or so age range and younger who feel an additional desire to support one another in this journey. The profile for a member invited to attend can be understood to be any OCDS member (in formation or fully professed) who is in a stage of life with any of the following: children still in school, those still working in a profession, or in the age group of 40s and younger.

The objective of this ministry group is to create friendship among Secular Carmelite members who are in a similar stage of life throughout the province. It will be an opportunity to discuss balancing family and professional responsibilities with silence, prayer and our vocation within the Carmelite Order. It will also be an opportunity to discuss how to share and cultivate spiritual life in developing children and the joy of Carmel within our families and those we work with successfully. This is not a group for extra study or formation, but for fellowship and connection among OCDS members at a similar stage of life.

We will have an *Interest Meeting* for this new virtual ministry group for OCDS members in the province. This meeting, and any future ones, will occur via online web conference and are of course free to attend. Please fill out this form with your contact information to receive an invitation to the first event:

<https://forms.gle/qvai91f3gyN5JAXv5>

COMMUNICATION REMINDERS

Please make sure that checks sent to the OCDS Central Office are made payable to “**Discalced Carmelite Seculars**”.

When sending donation checks to the Mission office or House of Studies, *please include the’ city’ name of the group/community* on the check when sending community donation checks.

OCDS documentation that requires a response from the Provincial Delegate should go to:

Rev. Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCD
Carmelite House of Saint Elijah
300 Humpert Lane, NE
Mount Angel, Oregon

OCDS documentation that requires no response and is only for filing purposes:

OCDS Central Office Secretary
Carmelite House of Prayer
P. O Box 347
Oakville, CA 94562

Monthly documentation and reports from Groups should be emailed to the local OCDS Provincial Council representative and the Provincial Delegate. (see email address on contact info at OCDS Provincial website).

Apostolic Activity Report from Communities and Groups should be emailed to the local OCDS Provincial Council representative and the Provincial Delegate. (see email address on contact info at OCDS Provincial website).

In Remembrance

To have a deceased member of your community listed in the Provincial Council Newsletter please email the members name, dates of Promises or Vows, date of death, the city and state of the community where they are a member to Pam Gockel, O.C.D.S. at pgockel20@gmail.com. They will be listed in the next available Newsletter.

Connie Navarro, O.C.D.S.
Covina, CA

Penny Brown, O.C.D.S.
Covina, CA

Anna Maria Kawano, O.C.D.S.
Powell, WY

Christine D'Archangeli, O.C.D.S.
Belen, NM

Larry Chartier, O.C.D.S.
Okanogan, WA

Patricia Gallegos, O.C.D.S.
Ogden, UT

Deacon Charles Seagren, O.C.D.S.
Carmel, CA