



OCDS Provincial Newsletter

California-Arizona Province – June 2018

On the Apostolate, CA-AZ OCDS Regions, & More

“...I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of Hosts.” (St. Elijah, 1 Kings 19:14)

Noteworthy and Newsy



May 6, 2018 Ceremonies, Santa Clara, CA. – Seven clothings and one temporary promise (shared by Teresa Basnage, OCDS, Formation Director).

THE LITTLE FLOWER

By S. Lee Whilldin

OCDS Community of St. Elijah, Grand Junction, CO

You were never my favorite you know,
Almost perfect, I thought...from beginning to end
I preferred the quixotic, warrior
Spirit of Madre Teresa
The pain, the poetry of John
The metamorphosis of the Magdalene

Now, here I lay, nestled into a
Rainy, Irish night
Remembering the not so distant past
The path so strewn with thorns
The thorns became the “roses”
So many “roses”
Everywhere I turned, you smiled.

Is your Community/Group seeking additional vocations? Here is a generic advertisement that can be used in parish bulletins, diocesan newspapers, and other publications:

What Are You Seeking?

Do you long for a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper prayer life? Do you have a love for Our Lady and an interest in the spirituality of the Carmelite saints?

The Secular Discalced Carmelites of **NAME OF COMMUNITY/GROUP** welcomes visitors and inquirers. For more information contact **NAME** at **PHONE NUMBER**.

On the Apostolate by Lynn Miyake, OCDS, Provincial Councilor

Every year, our OCDS Communities and Groups submit reports on their apostolates to the Provincial Council. Drafting these reports can be something of a challenge, so I thought you might be encouraged and inspired to hear about some of the wonderful apostolates that take place in our Province. You may also discover that you are engaged in more apostolates than you previously realized.

It's important to understand that each OCDS Community and Group is different. Some Communities and Groups are very small with only a few members. Others have many members, but even in large Communities, not everyone is available to participate in the apostolate. Some members are elderly or ill. Others are busy raising young children. Some are caregivers for family members. Others have demanding careers that limit their availability. Our Provincial Statutes are very sensitive to these differences. “Apostolic activity keeps in mind a sensitivity to each Community's interests, abilities, and talents, as well as the physical and financial capabilities of its members working together...” (Provincial Statutes, Sec. II, No. 5, page 54.) In other words, Communities and Groups should always protect the vocations of their existing members when choosing their apostolates.

Put in simple terms, a genuine apostolate is an activity that helps bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. Our Provincial Statutes express this with particular beauty and clarity: “...Because we love Christ, we must express that love outwardly in service to others, leading them to Christ. This is the basis for our apostolate.” (Provincial Statutes, Sec. II, No. 2, page 53.)

As we all know, our primary apostolate is prayer. This is something in which we all participate. The value of our prayer should never be underestimated or undervalued. Individual prayer makes a significant difference in the world. Prayers offered in Community or Group are even more fruitful. “...Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Mt 18:19-20)

Most of us don't think of our formation activities as apostolates. However, our formation program is actually one of our most important apostolates. Our materials and classes introduce many, many people to Carmelite prayer and spirituality. Even if people remain with us only for a few months or years without becoming full members, they are introduced to some of the most sublime spiritual writings in the Church. By sharing our spirituality with everyone who crosses our thresholds, we are sharing our Carmelite charism with the world.

(On the Apostolate – Continued)

I want to highlight a couple of ideas that recently came to my attention. One Community sends cards to their parish priests, assuring them of their ongoing prayers. Cards could also be sent to the seminarians in our local dioceses and in our Province. What a wonderful way to thank and support our priests and seminarians! Another Community recently put together a booklet of original prayers written by its members. The booklets are given as gifts to family members and friends, and the Community offers them for sale to raise funds. Perhaps, you have some other creative ideas!

Here are some of the additional ongoing apostolates in our Communities and Groups:

- Giving parish talks on Carmelite prayer and spirituality
- Distributing Carmelite materials at parishes and in church bulletins (recruiting activities)
- Teaching parish classes on the Liturgy of the Hours
- Wearing the scapular together at parish and diocesan Masses and activities
- Participating in Carmelite book clubs with non-members
- Maintaining websites with Carmelite information available to the public
- Writing articles on Carmelite spirituality for diocesan newspapers and other periodicals
- Distributing Community/Group newsletters to family, friends, and other interested parties
- Engaging in fundraising activities and making donations to the friars or nuns
- Providing assistance to other OCDS Communities and Groups
- Setting up tables to share Carmelite spirituality at diocesan and parish ministry fairs

Many of our members also serve in other parish ministries and donate to outside charities. And of course, to the extent that we serve as examples of genuine Christian virtue, we demonstrate the fruits of our vocation to everyone who knows we are Carmelites.

At the recent OCDS Leadership Conference in Redlands, California, Provincial Delegate Fr. Juan Elias Medina, OCD, explained his vision for our OCDS Communities, Groups, and Study Groups that are now organized into five geographic regions. Father Juan Elias asked the Communities and Groups who are located in reasonable proximity to each other to consider if there are ways they can work together in shared apostolates. This would be a great help to the friars, and it would also foster fraternal communion between our Communities and Groups. Think about it and pray about it. You may be surprised at some of the wonderful ideas that come to the generous souls who are willing to spend themselves in the Lord's service.

Finally, common sense must always prevail when we participate in our apostolates. We don't live together in community, so we must trust each other to be honest and open about our talents and availability. In the words of St. Albert of Jerusalem: "...Our Lord, at his second coming, will reward anyone who does more than he is obliged to do. See that the bounds of discretion are not exceeded, however, for discretion is the guide of the virtues." (The Rule of St. Albert, No. 24)

Recap on the New CA-AZ OCDS Regions

Our Provincial Council has been humbled and gratified that many of you have contacted your regional representatives to communicate your questions and concerns. We are happy to serve you any way we can. We continue to work directly with Provincial Delegate Fr. Juan Elias Medina, OCD, on all substantive issues. Here is a recap of the CA-AZ Regions:

Northwest Region, Lee Ann Trunk, OCDS, Provincial Councilor. You can contact Lee Ann at (360) 903-7656 or Leeann.trunk@comcast.net. The Northwest Region includes all Communities and Groups located in WA, OR, AK, and HI.

Northern California Region, Margaret Shore, OCDS, Provincial Councilor. You can contact Margaret at (209) 609-8208 or pegary01@sbcglobal.net. The Northern California Region includes Communities and Groups in the following California locations: Auburn, Berkeley, Carmel, Ferndale, Gilroy, Lodi, Modesto, Oakville (2), Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Francisco (2), San Jose (2), San Rafael, and Santa Clara.

Southern California Region, Amy Holmes, OCDS, Provincial Councilor. You can contact Amy at (626) 338-8285 or amyholmes7ocds@gmail.com. The Southern California Region includes Communities and Groups in the following California locations: Alhambra (2), Bakersfield, Chula Vista, Coronado, Covina, Long Beach, Orange County, Palm Desert, Redlands, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Westlake Village.

Central Region, Jim Dowd, OCDS, Provincial Councilor. You can contact Jim at (435) 592-3940 or jimdowdocds@gmail.com. The Central Region includes all Communities and Groups located in CO, ID, MT, NV, UT, and WY.

Southwest Region, Lynn Miyake, OCDS, Provincial Councilor. You can contact Lynn at (575) 496-6430 or Lkmiyake@aol.com. The Southwest Region includes all Communities and Groups located in AZ and NM.