December 14, 2016
Feast of Our Holy Father Saint John of the Cross

Dear Secular Order Brothers and Sisters,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

We are writing with important news: Our new *OCDS Provincial Statutes* have been approved by the General Definitory. We received the document of approbation on December 13, 2016. As of that date, our previous 2014 *Statutes* are no longer in effect.

The OCDS Provincial Council has worked for well over a year on these revisions. First we asked for suggestions from around the Province. Then we consulted the *Provincial Statutes* of the Washington and Oklahoma Provinces. We have also consulted with a number of individuals, especially our Provincial, Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD.

All the changes are highlighted in yellow. The new official text with the highlighted changes is now posted on our website www.ocds.info under *Legislative Documents*. Also I am sending out the new text in an email to all Presidents and Group Leaders.

We strongly advise you to wait until further notice before making individual copies of these new *Statutes* for your members. Very soon we will be having new *Legislative Booklets* printed for everyone. We will be contacting you for the number of *Booklets* you would like to order.

We have tried to make these *Statutes* more readable. We now have a Table of Contents at the beginning, and we will be working on an Index.

Please read these changes carefully. Canonically-established Communities will find some changes which could have a significant effect on your elections this spring, especially Sec. XXI, 4 (b) and Sec. XXVI, 2 (d). It would be good for one of your Councilors to make a presentation on these changes at your next Community/Group meeting.

We are glad to answer your questions. Feel free to contact me at (408) 772-2936 or any of the Provincial Councilors.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD (Provincial Delegate)
Erin Foord, OCDS (President)
Cheri Kluever, OCDS (Secretary)
Lucy Okoh, OCDS
Lee Ann Trunk, OCDS
Amy Holmes, OCDS