



CARMELITE CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the
Discalced Carmelite Friars
California-Arizona Province
Fall 2012

Featured Article

The Discalced Carmelite Friars
celebrate 60 years of blessings
at El Carmelo Retreat House,
Redlands, CA.

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From the Provincial Superior

By Very Rev. Matthew Williams, O.C.D.



July, for Carmelites, is the month of Mary. On July 16, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is a time for us to renew our imitation of the Virgin Mary, and give thanks for the many graces that she has obtained for her Order. Historians tell us that from the very start, the first hermits of Mount Carmel were dedicated to giving the Virgin Mary honor, and continually invoking her intercession. In fact, the first chapel the monks built on Mount Carmel was named after the Virgin Mary.

Over the centuries, Blessed Mary has bestowed great graces upon Carmel, and continues to do so, up to this very day. We have been blessed with great saints, such as St. Teresa of Jesus, St. John of the Cross, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), and a host of others.

In our own times, in our own Province, we continue to experience the wondrous love of the Virgin Mary. From our beginnings in Alhambra, to this very day, grace has surrounded us as we strive to live that life of allegiance to Jesus Christ.

In this Fall 2012 issue of Carmelite Connections we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, CA. Herein, you will find articles on the history and ministry of the retreat house as well as an article on the Sister Oblates of Saint Martha who have served El Carmelo since 1966.

This issue also begins a series of articles that highlight the monasteries of nuns that are located within the California-Arizona Province of Discalced Carmelite Friars. Many of these Foundations are under the jurisdiction of the local bishop. We begin with the Carmel of the Holy Family and St. Therese in Georgetown, CA which is under the jurisdiction of the order.

Among the graces we are most thankful is the one of such faithful supporters and friends who are a part of our Province. We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support, for you are an integral part of who we are as a Province.

We are honored to pray for you as well. We have included information on our upcoming Novena for the Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux to be prayed September 23rd through October 1st. Please return the enclosed envelope to submit your intention for the novena. You may also go to our website and submit your intention online. (www.ocdwest.org)

We ask the Virgin Mary to intercede for all of our friends and benefactors, that you will be blessed in a special way by Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and that you feel her motherly protection all the days of your life.

Connections

My Journey to Carmel By Virginia Barber

January 17, 2012



Dear Fr. Matthew,

I'm almost 80 years old now, but when I was a young mother with three very young children, and an Episcopalian, I read *The Practice of the Presence of God* by (Br.) Lawrence of the Resurrection. It was then being offered by an Episcopal book club. This book was such a joy to me, because I hadn't known how to pray other than by using formal written prayers. With such young children, I couldn't always take the time to pray that way, but I had great desire to pray. Now I could pray changing diapers, or cooking in the kitchen. I had learned "affective prayer".

...I'm typing this account of how I arrived at Carmel rather than writ(e) on the lined section recently sent for making donations. ...My story begins 60 years ago.

By the time I was in my forties, I again needed help with prayer, and somehow I found St. John of the Cross' book *The Dark Night*. I considered this to be a life saver with regard to saving my faith, since prayer had become so dry, but I still wanted to pray. I had a great need for "mental prayer." Then my brother recommended that I read the works of St. Teresa and more of St. John of the Cross, if I wanted to develop mental prayer.

My brother had become a Buddhist Monk of the Theravada tradition in Thailand, but since I was a practicing Christian, he felt I should read these works for the best training in Christian contemplative prayer. I immersed myself in *The Way of Perfection*, *The Book of Her Life*, and *Interior Castle*. I had now come to a great desire to become Catholic. I saw that St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross had become the saints that they are, by being subject to the authority of the Catholic Church. I began to pray to be under that same authority.

Our children were now grown and gone from home, but I still had a husband to consider. We were both active in the Charismatic Renewal in the Episcopal Church as well as parish life, but we were also attending some Catholic Charismatic events.

My husband was getting acquainted with the Catholic Church and some Catholics. In my prayer, I felt that I heard Jesus tell me to wait patiently and pray. Jesus told me that my husband would decide, that he, too, wanted to become Catholic.

One day he came home from work and asked me if I was ready to become Catholic. I was overjoyed! It was August or September and we immediately moved to our local Catholic parish, and began attending RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.) I began attending daily Mass, which was almost a lifelong desire for me, (I was raised a "High Church Anglican"). I also went to the local Catholic book store and bought the four volume set of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, so I could continue with Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer in the Catholic form. We were received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil of 1983.

My daily religious practice was now thirty minutes of Mental Prayer on waking in the morning, daily Mass, Evening and Night Prayer. I was still working, so I chose daily Mass instead of Morning Prayer on work days because I couldn't fit both in, but prayed Morning Prayer on other days. When I began my journey in the Order of Carmelites Discalced, Secular in January of 1992, after retirement, I discovered that I was already practicing the daily rule. I hadn't known that Brother Lawrence was a Carmelite till I attended my first OCDS Congress in San Francisco. God had been leading me to my Carmelite vocation since my twenties when I first read *The Practice of the Presence of God*! My husband is not a Carmelite, but he is supportive of my vocation. We are both very active in our local parish life. We are happy to be Catholic! And I am happy to be an OCDS. My Carmelite name is Virginia of the Holy Eucharist.

Virginia Barber

Virginia Barber, O.C.D.S. Portland Community

You are a part of our family!

How are we a part of yours?

How have our Discalced Carmelite Friars touched your life?

We want to hear your story!

Use the enclosed envelope to submit your story to us. Or email us at OCDFriars@gmail.com. Please include your name and contact information so that we can contact you in the event that we would like to share your story with our readers.

Thank You! JM+JT

Editor's Note: This letter was submitted to Fr. Matthew Williams, Provincial Superior, in response to his 2011 End-of-Year letter. It is reprinted here with permission from the author and with minor edits. We thank Virginia Barber for sharing her story with us!

Georgetown Carmel

**Carmel of the Holy Family and Saint Therese
Georgetown, California**

*First in a continuing series of articles highlighting the
Discalced Carmelite Monasteries of Nuns within the Province.*



On the morning of December 22, 1935 five Nuns from the Carmel of Alhambra, California boarded a train destined for Sacramento, California. In the spirit of our Holy Mother Saint Teresa, these Nuns leapt into the unknown, yet with great joy, peace and hope in their hearts and souls. The Nuns were alone and strangers in Sacramento for their first Christmas. But then, a steady stream of the faithful made their way to the new Camel to welcome the Nuns. Many of these generous souls became good friends of the Carmel and surrounded it with their love, devotion and assistance.

The Nuns built their dovecot (as St. Teresa called her monasteries) into a fully functioning Carmelite monastery. However, as this religious family matured, so did the city that surrounded them. In 1979, the Nuns realized that it was imperative for them to relocate if they were to keep the Carmelite observance of prayer, sacrifice, and silence.

The Nuns, led by Mother Mary Ann Teresa (the last surviving member of the five founding Nuns), moved in 1982 to their present home in the picturesque small town of Georgetown, California.

Today, they function as a healthy and happy religious family comprised of fifteen Nuns: twelve solemn professed, one junior professed, and two novices.

When asked about how she would like the spirit of her Carmel explained, Mother Christine of Mary and the Holy Spirit, present Prioress, answered: "Our address, 6981 Teresian Way, actually indicates not only the location of our monastery, but the goal of our community.

"Carmel is all about walking in the divine footsteps of Jesus. Carmel is all about union with Him."

After the nuns settled in their first house on Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento, Mother Mary Seraphine (who had a truly fiery devotion to St. Therese), wrote to Mother Agnes at the Lisieux Carmel. She entreated her to ask her sainted blood sister, St. Therese, to obtain from God the favor that all who would be called to this new Carmel would be victims of Merciful Love - as was St. Therese.

Once we had moved to the El Dorado Forest, and received our new address number 6981, we wondered: why such a long number, when we were the only ones living here? After some prayerful reflection, we realized that St. Therese made her oblation to Merciful Love on June 9, and '81 was the year the address was assigned to us...so 6981 echoes our vocation.

Carmelites Abroad

The Call to Rome

By: Fr. José Luis Ferroni Palacios, O.C.D.

Teresian Way speaks of our Holy Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus. The relocation of our monastery from Sacramento took place during some of the turbulent years following Vatican II, which asked for an updating and renewal of all religious life, and a return to the Gospel and to the charism of our founders. Actually, any follower of St. Teresa would find that way very easily, since for Teresa, Carmel is all about walking in the divine footsteps of Jesus. Carmel is all about union with Him. So it became our inspiration to try to live out this renewal by walking in the footsteps of His Divine Majesty, in the footsteps of Teresa - here, in the El Dorado mountains and foothills. Yes, "El Dorado" means "golden." The Gold Rush of '49 began here. But we are searching for the gold of Carmel's spirituality: the way of St. Teresa. As she puts it, 'The more we are united with Christ and the greater our self-surrender to Him, the more deeply we shall participate in His salvific mission.'



Call to Prayer

As with most monastic orders, each monastery of Discalced Carmelite Nuns has their choice to be under the jurisdiction of the local ordinary (the diocesan bishop) or the Superior General of the Discalced Carmelite Friars. In discussing the Georgetown Carmel's history, Mother Christine was proud to add: "Following the Teresian Way, we were able to come into full communion with the Order in January 2005. As our Holy Mother so much desired, we were able to come under the jurisdiction of the Order, with our Fr. Provincial as our Superior."

While learning, along with the Nuns, what this new relationship means, the Friars have embraced the opportunity to deepen the Carmelite bonds with our sisters. In this, we forge together, ever stronger, in our living of the Carmelite life and the fraternal relationship that our Holy Mother St. Teresa had envisioned for us.



Nuns dancing in the courtyard of the Monastery.

On a sunny spring Sunday morning in Tucson back in 2007, while still greeting parishioners after Holy Mass at our parish of Santa Cruz, I received a call from the Provincial Superior via cell phone informing me that the Superior General of the Order had requested that I report to Rome as soon as possible.



A project had been identified at the General Chapter of the Order and I had been among those entrusted by the Definitory in Rome to help carry it out. A group of Carmelite historians had been appointed to reconstitute and administer the Order's historical institute (which had been inactive since 1998). I was to be part of that new team. While other members were being called from their Provinces, I began studies at the Gregorian University in Rome during the fall of 2007 (eventually earning a degree in Church History in 2010). In September 2008, the General Definitory formally established a small administrative group to re-activate the Institute. The members are: President, Fr. Domingo Fernández de Mendiola (from the Province of Navarra), Vice President, Fr. Sunny Maniakkunnel (Malabar), and myself as Administrator.

The Institutum Historicum Teresianum (IHT) or Teresian Historical Institute was originally established by a decree from the General Definitory of the Discalced Carmelite Order on April 4, 1973. It was created as its own juridic entity and located at the Pontifical Faculty "Teresianum" in Rome. The primary task of the Institute is to collect, process and edit historical documents and sources, and to publish them using historical-critical methodology. The Institute is also tasked with promoting scientific research of the Teresian Carmel in the field of Church history. Our web site provides further information: www.ihtocd.org.

As Administrator, I manage the collection Monumenta Historica Carmeli Teresiani, which consists of four series: Fontes (Sources) - which includes the critical editions of historical documents in their entirety; Subsidia (Subsidiary) - sources which are abbreviated or summarized in the form of a 'regesta'; Subsidia Selecta (Selected Subsidiaries) - a series which is comprised of catalogues of Superior Generals and religious of the Order of the various Provinces; and Studia (Studies and research) - a collection of monographs relevant to the Teresian Carmel. In addition to our publications, there exists an international group called the Association of Collaborators of the IHT composed of historians and people interested in Carmelite history. Finally, in addition to my duties for the Institute and my doctoral studies here in Rome, I am a visiting professor at CITEs in Avila, Spain where once a year I give a course on the Biography of St. John of the Cross.

While being away from my home Province is difficult, it is an honor to serve the Order in Rome. It gives me a wider view of the Order.

Please keep us and our work in your prayer.

1st Profession

Heart and Brother Daniel White of Saint Therese

By: Fr. Ramiro Casale, O.C.D.

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Last February 2, 2012, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Brothers Matthias Lambrecht of the Immaculate Heart and Daniel White of St. Therese made their first vows at Mount Saint Joseph Carmelite Monastery in San Jose, CA.

The ceremony was presided by Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D., Vicar Provincial of the Discalced Carmelite Province of California-Arizona.

The celebration was joyful and beautiful. "In His Temple Now Behold Him" swelled from the choir of faithful friends, families and friars as Brothers Matthias and Daniel processed into Mount St. Joseph's Chapel. Brother Matthias remembers that day: "Just twelve hours beforehand, I had a quiet emotional release in my cell as the reality of this big step in response to God's call sunk in a bit deeper. I'm going to be a Consecrated Religious! As the Mass began, I felt free and ready." Brother Daniel considers

"In His Temple Now Behold Him"



Vicar Provincial Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D. delivers his homily during the 1st Profession Rite of Bro. Matthias Lambrecht and Bro. Daniel White.



Bro. Matthias and Bro. Daniel are pictured with Fr. Ramiro Casale, O.C.D.



Bro. Matthias Lambrecht makes his first profession as Bro. Daniel White looks on.

his first profession as a "blessing" after preparing himself for a long time for this important day. He considered it very important to have "people praying for us" during the ceremony. "For me to see them was a grace." The brothers pronounced their vows with great conviction as all in the congregation witnessed their consecration to the Lord in the Discalced Carmelite order.

Brother Daniel's parents, Lawrence and Debra White, and Brother Matthias' parents, Michael and Sharon Lambrecht, his aunt and uncle, Colleen and Dick Bonney, his cousins Julie and Jim Opsahl, and his friends Jonathan Sprouffske and Candy Phillips, were at Mount St. Joseph for this important occasion. They honored our Carmelite community with their presence.

Since their profession, Brothers Matthias and Daniel have been involved in ministry helping at Holy Family Parish in San Jose and at O'Connor Hospital in Santa Clara, bringing God's love and peace to the people they serve. In August they will be moving to St. Elijah House, the Carmelite house of studies in Mt. Angel, OR, to begin their studies at Mount Angel Seminary.

We thank God for the vocation of Brothers Matthias and Daniel, and pray that Our Lady of Mount Carmel accompany them on their journey as they love and serve God's people.

Happenings

Around the Province

- ✦ Fr. Richard Mandoli, O.C.D. celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Profession on March 25, 2012. Congratulations Fr. Richard!
- ✦ Provincial Superior, Fr. Matthew Williams, O.C.D. spent three weeks with our two mission communities in Uganda in January 2012. He generously chronicled his Uganda visit with our Facebook friends by posting pictures and commenting on his visit as he traveled in Africa.
- ✦ We're especially grateful to Lord for our two new postulants: John Cannon, 31, from Birmingham, Alabama, entered on March 19, 2012; Shane Quintel, 35, from Napa, California entered on April 12, 2012. Both John and Shane have settled in very well and are already fine additions to our community. Fr. Ramiro Casale, O.C.D. is their Postulant Master. He gets much of the credit for their smooth transition to Carmelite life.
- ✦ Fr. James Geoghegan, O.C.D. gave an O.C.D.S. retreat in Birmingham, Alabama on April 20-22, 2012 at the retreat house of the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word.
- ✦ The final summer retreat at our Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville, CA took place June 22-24, 2012. Retreats will resume again in September. In addition to their Sunday and daily ministries to the Christian Brothers at Mt. La Salle and to St. Apollinaris Parish, the Friars exercise the confession apostolate for up to 5 hours daily
- ✦ Fr. Gerald Werner, O.C.D., Bro. Mark Moran, O.C.D., and Fr. Ramiro Casale, O.C.D. attended the Carmelite Directors of Formation Program in Wisconsin May 28-June 1. More than 40 Discalced Carmelite nuns and friars from the U.S. and



Fr. James Zakowicz, O.C.D. tries out the recently donated tractor as Fr. Mark Kissner, O.C.D. and Bro. Peter Mary Vecellio, O.C.D. look on.



Corpus Christi Procession at Santa Cruz Church, Tucson, AZ.

- Canada participated in the program. Presenters were Fr. Fr. Daniel Chowning, O.C.D., who spoke on St. Teresa, and Fr. Steven Payne, O.C.D., who spoke on the history of the Discalced Carmelites.
- ✦ The community of Discalced Carmelite Friars at Mount St. Joseph Monastery commemorated the 50th anniversary of the completion of the building of our monastery at a benefit dinner held on May 20, 2012.
- ✦ Fr. Thomas Reeves, pastor at Santa Cruz Church in Tucson, AZ, is guiding volunteers in various projects around the parish: planting trees and shrubs and flowers around the grounds, making the sacristy more elegant and prayerful, installing ramps for wheelchairs, raising funds to renovate the religious education center (El Centro Pastoral), and renovating the front office.
- ✦ Many retreatants have taken notice of the pristine grounds at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, California. Fr. James Zakowicz, O.C.D. generally can be found atop a recently donated tractor cleaning up the orange orchards. We do not see him much anymore but we hear the tractor engine running in the groves. He did take time from ministry and work, however, to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt at the end of June.

El Carmelo Retreat House

60 years of blessings 1952 - 2012

On the following pages: [Our History](#): Pages 8-9, [Our Sisters](#): Page 10, [Retreat Spirituality](#): Page 11

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The Discalced Carmelites of the Anglo-Irish Province had been in California since 1924. They were well established in two parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles: St. Therese, Alhambra and Our Lady of Grace, Encino. The time was right for a new foundation.

Fr. Patrick Collins, O.C.D., Pastor and Superior of Our Lady of Grace discerned with the California community of Friars and the Superiors in Ireland and it was agreed that it should be a Retreat House. Father Enda Somers, O.C.D. described the intent in this way:

We Carmelites wished to do something for all the people in every walk and condition of life. What could be better than to share with them the heritage of Carmelite spirituality, the doctrine of prayer in theory and particularly in practice, the Gospels as interpreted by St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross, brought into the lives of all, whether they be in the priesthood or among the laity, the forum, factory or field, theater or television, in the office or the home, everyone from everywhere. St. Teresa says that God walks among the pots and pans. We wish to bring something of the realization of this into the lives of all.

After finding property in Redlands, California that seemed ideal for the foundation, Fr. Patrick wrote to Bishop Charles Buddy, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego (for Redlands was part of that diocese at that time). The reply from this kindly prelate was overwhelming. He left the impression that he was highly pleased,



Friars pictured with Bishop Charles F. Buddy in 1953

even elated, with the coming of Carmelites to his Diocese.

The future Retreat House property was known as the Pepper Moore estate and was in need of some attention. A vast clean-up job was directed by Father Ignatius (O'Donnell) of St. Michael and Father Gerald (Winters) of The Holy Rosary - they brought many parishioners from Our Lady of Grace, Encino, and St. Therese, Alhambra, along with volunteers from Redlands. Mr. Tony Jacinto and the Portuguese community cleaned up the orange groves.

October 15, 1952, the Solemnity of Saint Teresa, was the day of dedication. Bishop Buddy celebrated the Mass and blessed the foundation. Father Edward Leahy, the Provincial Delegate, preached the homily. Many local priests and sisters were present as well as a host of friends and helpers.

The founding Carmelite community consisted of Fr. Patrick Collins, Fr. Enda, and Bro. Francis and they were joined by Fr. John Lysaght who was appointed Retreat Director. Bro. Boniface Scheerer joined the community in 1954 (and remained until his death in 2010). Bro. Francis and Bro. Boniface took charge of the food services, Fr. Enda conducted the lay retreats and Fr. Patrick led the Priests Retreats.

Little by little, the Carmelite Friars of El Carmelo developed the property and the retreat ministry. The number of Retreatants increased month by month. The first retreat buildings were built by the end of 1954 and the Friars were then ready to welcome overnight guests. This was necessary in order to offer retreats for priests.

In the mid 1950's an unforeseen event halted the expansion of the retreat house.

The State of California was expanding Interstate 10. This freeway was to run right through the El Carmelo Retreat House property.

“El Carmelo is an oasis of peace in the midst of a busy and fast paced world.”



Window Crucifix on the back wall of the sanctuary at El Carmelo

After some fine negotiation, and recognition that there would be a great sacrifice of silence to the noise of a freeway, the Carmelites lost five acres of the original property but gained the crown of the hill which opened up a spectacular view of the valley and San Bernardino Mountains. This is where the newer dormitory buildings and Assembly and Dining Room stand today.

Another major event in the development of the retreat ministry occurred in 1966 when the Oblates of Saint Martha (community of Sisters from Mexico committed to supporting priests in their ministry) arrived at El Carmelo to serve in housekeeping and food service. As the retreat house continued to grow, their apostolate was eventually limited to preparing and serving meals, and caring for the Chapel. To this day, their prayerful and faithful presence is even greater than the work they do in serving delicious meals to the retreatants.

In later years, through the generosity of great benefactors, El Carmelo was able to acquire two residential houses which adjoin the property to serve as a convent for the Oblatas de Santa Marta and the Provincial House for our Provincial Superior. In the late 1990's, an additional five acres was added to the property and orange trees were planted to supplement the already thriving groves.

Over the years, El Carmelo has welcomed many dignitaries and many of the faithful from all walks of life. However, two stand out and should be mentioned. In 1978, Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen came to Redlands to preach a priests retreat. We are told that the Retreat House was overflowing with priests for that event.

The second special guest was a Carmelite Saint. In January of the year 2000, El Carmelo received the major relics of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (the Little Flower). While the visit of Venerable Bishop Sheen was quiet by comparison, St. Therese drew thousands of people to El Carmelo.

Today, El Carmelo welcomes several thousand retreatants each year. The Friars also serve the local Redlands community as spiritual directors and confessors as well as celebrating Mass at local parishes and serving in campus ministry at Aquinas High School. There is a thriving Secular Discalced Carmelite community and some thirty to fifty people join the Friars for Holy Mass each weekday.

El Carmelo is an oasis of peace in the midst of a busy and fast paced world. The Chapel doors remain open throughout the day welcoming God's people to pay a visit to Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Many persons get a glimpse of the unseen God as they travel the driveway of El Carmelo to buy oranges and avocados, or to visit the book and gift shop. El Carmelo is sacred ground and it is immediately recognized as such.

The present community of Discalced Carmelite Friars at El Carmelo consists of Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales (Superior), Fr. Mark Kissner and Bro. Jason Parrot. We are grateful for the solid foundation that has been given us by generations of our Carmelite brothers. Although they are big shoes to fill, we continue to serve God's people in the spirit of our founders, which included a great amount of faith, prayer and hope.



Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California Province are photographed with Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen during his visit to El Carmelo Retreat House in 1978.

The Sister Oblates of Saint Martha

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



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Sister Oblates of Saint Martha was founded by Fr. Felipe Torres Hurtado, a Missionary of the Holy Spirit, and Sr. Maria de Jesus Guerrero in 1949. It was Fr. Hurtado who revealed God's will for Maria to leave her congregation, the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady of Peace, to found a new congregation.

Although destined for Costa Rica, the two founders and two other Sisters stopped in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico where Fr. Hurtado was retained by the bishop to serve the diocese as vicar-general and vice-rector of the seminary. The Sisters agreed to stay in Saltillo with Fr. Hurtado.

Before classes began that year, Msgr. Torres was celebrating the Holy Eucharist in a small chapel called 'El Calvario.' Msgr. Torres told Sister Maria de Jesus, "On this date on which the Virgin Mary was born, a new congregation is also born. This congregation will serve the priests of the seminary and collaborate with them, but do not forget that the congregation will have various apostolates. Your patron will be Our Lady of Sorrows in her solitude years. A second patron will be St. Martha who was a good friend of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and she served him and his apostles."

The new community was originally called the Marthas of Our Lady of Fatima, with their constitutions written by Msgr. Torres. But in 1952, when their novitiate was established, they became a Pious Union and took their present name: Las Oblatas de Santa Marta. The congregation became a diocesan institute in 1965, and, on Sept. 8, 1982, was elevated to the status of a Pontifical Institute by Bl. Pope John Paul II. The constitutions of the congregation were approved by the Vatican in 1990.

The congregation has a membership of approximately 180 members with communities in Mexico, the United States and Rome. The motto of the congregation is *Unum es Necessarium* (only one thing is necessary). This is Jesus' reply to St. Martha when she complains about her sister, Mary, not helping her.

The congregation's mission is to participate with Christ the High Priest by imitating the Virgin Mary and following the example of St. Martha in their work for the Church and its priests.

They take great joy in collaborating with priests by helping them, by praying for them, by working with them, and attending to their daily needs.

The Oblatas came to El Carmelo in 1966 and have remained ever since. They presently prepare and serve all the Retreatants' meals and care for the Chapel. The Sisters also offer an additional dimension to their service at El Carmelo. The Retreatants are told at each orientation that it is important to stay on schedule so the sisters can keep their prayer schedule after serving their meals. The Sisters' spiritual presence is perhaps their greater service to El Carmelo. Their gentle, humble and selfless service is a practical witness of the love and graciousness of God.

In 2009, the Oblatas congregation accepted an invitation by Bishop Gerald Barnes, bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, to staff the food service department at Serra House (a college residence for seminarians of the Diocese) in Grand Terrace, California. Since Serra House is a short fifteen minutes away from El Carmelo, this has given the Sisters an opportunity to extend their community's presence with an additional three Sisters. The two communities gather, often, for prayer, Days of Recollection and recreation. The Grand Terrace community also participates in the major liturgical celebrations and holidays at El Carmelo. So, the three Sisters of the Grand Terrace community are considered part of the El Carmelo family.

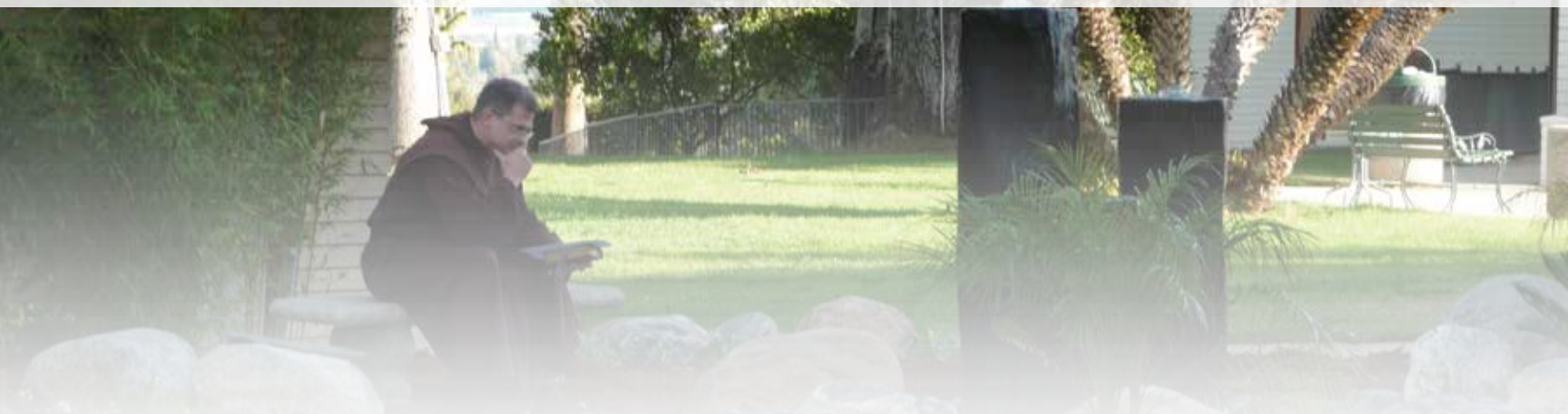
In 2010, in recognition of all the Oblatas who have served at El Carmelo, the Retreatants' Dining Room was renamed the St. Martha Dining Room. A small plaque, below a statue of St. Martha dressed in the original habit of the Oblatas, recognizes the service of the Sisters to the Friars and retreatants of El Carmelo over the last 46 years.

In 2012, the Friars were privileged and honored to host the 50th Jubilee of two of the Oblatas: Sr. Humbelina, present Superior of El Carmelo; and Sr. Francisca, former Superior at El Carmelo and then Superior of the Grand Terrace community. There was a Solemn Mass with a reception following. It was a very small way for the Friars to demonstrate their great gratitude for the presence of Sr. Humbelina and Sr. Francisca and their whole community.

The present community of Oblatas at El Carmelo consists of Sr. Humbelina, superior, Sr. Micaela, Sr. Ana Maria and Sr. Lorena. May our good God reward them and all their Sisters for their service to God's priests and people.

Ministry in the Silence of El Carmelo

Fr. Mark Kissner, O.C.D.



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The core charism of the Discalced Carmelites Friars is contemplative prayer – that is, seeking union with God. Although the Carmelite Friars spend much time in prayer, our lives are balanced with active ministry. In the houses of the California-Arizona

Province of the Discalced Carmelite Friars, we serve in various ministries: in parishes, a retreat house, a house of formation, a house of prayer, a spiritual institute, a house of studies, and a mission in Uganda, Africa. Besides these community ministries,



Carmelite Friars gather to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

some of the friars have also served in hospitals, prisons, the military, and the healing and deliverance ministry.

One of the blessings of the ministry here at El Carmelo Retreat House is that the friars get to offer retreatants not just time away from their noisy, hectic lives, but an opportunity to enter into the Carmelite life of contemplative prayer. Virtually all of the retreats offered at El Carmelo are silent. Our ministry is to create an environment and facilitate a process within which the retreatant seeks union and communion with God. Therefore, at the retreatants' orientation, we put a strong emphasis on

maintaining silence during the time of retreat. Silence is not only important for the spiritual life of a Carmelite Friar, but it is important for anyone who is making a retreat. It is indispensable for one who wants to converse with God and to hear His Holy Will for them.

To really cultivate an atmosphere of silence, we tell the retreatants at the orientation to give permission to one another to be silent, which includes not having to acknowledge one another every time they pass each other during the retreat. Silence is more than just an exterior lack of noise. It is, essentially, an interior stillness of the soul in which our whole being can be focused on the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ, who dwells within us.

“We pray that El Carmelo will continue to bless many people for generations to come, providing both friars and retreatants a quiet place in which to contemplate the Divine and grow in union with God.”

Silence was important for the early Carmelite hermits who lived on Mount Carmel and also for our holy parents: St. Teresa of Jesus (Avila) and St. John of the Cross. St. John of the Cross says: “The Father spoke one Word, which was his Son, and this Word he speaks always in silence, and in silence must it be heard by the soul” (from The Sayings of Light and Love). When the entire retreat is imbued with the spirit of silence then all of the other aspects of the retreat such as the spiritual conferences, Masses, Liturgy of Hours, confession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary, the stations of the Cross, and personal time allow the retreatant to hear the Lord speak to them.

As the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California-Arizona Province celebrate our 60th Anniversary of ministry at the El Carmelo Retreat House this year, we give thanks to God for all of the graces and blessings that this ministry has brought to the friars and the people that have come here over the many years.



Golden Jubilee

A warm and heartfelt congratulation is extended to Fr. David (Costello) of the Sacred Heart on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.

Born in 1936 at Tipperary in Ireland, Fr. David made his first profession of vows in 1955 and was ordained a priest in Rome on April 29, 1962. After further studies in Rome and a short assignment in Ireland, he came to California in 1966. He has held many offices: superior and director of retreats in Redlands; prior in San Jose; prior in Oakville; pastor and superior in Alhambra; provincial councilor. He went to Nairobi, Kenya, in Africa in 1995; there he held the offices of vocation director and formation director. After returning to California for a few years, he led the

founding of the province's mission in Uganda in 2002. Since returning to California several years ago, he has served as the province's mission promoter.

“Fr. David, congratulations—and thank you for your many years of faithful, generous service to God and to us. May the Lord grant you many more such years as a priest!”



Fr. David Costello with his brother, Fr. Jim Costello, who travelled from Ireland for the celebration.

Two special events marked Fr. David's golden jubilee of priestly ordination. On the actual anniversary day, April 29, Fr. David celebrated the 12 noon Sunday Mass at St. Apollinaris Church in Napa, CA. A reception in the parish hall followed. Five days later, Friday, May 4, Fr. David celebrated a special afternoon Mass at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville, CA. A social and dinner followed. Fr. David's older brother, Fr. Jim Costello, a diocesan priest in Ireland, came to the Napa Valley for these special events. He himself celebrated his own 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood last year.



Fr. David is congratulated by Mr. James Barrett as Bro. Matthias joins the celebration.

Fr. Cyprian of St Therese of the Child Jesus Memorialized

by our friends on Facebook



Father Cyprian of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Hubert Killackey) was born in Eyrecourt, Co. Galway, Ireland on January 2, 1925. After High School at the Carmelite college in Castlemartyr he entered the Discalced Carmelites in 1945 and was professed on 3rd October 1945. He studied for the priesthood in Dublin where he was ordained 13th July 1952. He spent the first years of his priestly life in Loughrea where he was much loved by the local people. In the late 1950s he came to Oakville, California where among other apostolates he served as novice Master. In 1969, he was transferred to Tucson, Arizona and there began a fruitful parochial ministry that lasted until his death in 2012.

He will be best remembered as pastor of St. Margaret Mary and

Santa Cruz parishes. He loved his parishioners, many of whom were Spanish speaking. Fr. Cyprian did not speak Spanish, yet his people knew that he loved them and made sacrifices for them. He was a perfect example of Cardinal Newman's "heart to heart speaking." He was a prayerful man with a great love for Our Lord and Our Lady. St. Therese was a special favorite of his. He shared a birthday with her (January 2), he made his profession on her feast day and he took her as his patronal saint. He had an uncomplicated faith and loved to offer Mass and to pray the Divine Office.

He was a priestly priest, 100 percent loyal to the Church, to his Carmelite Order and to his people. He was strongly pro-life from the earliest days of his ministry. His memory will long be cherished in Ireland, California and Arizona.



Editor's Note to readers unfamiliar with Facebook: As with other modes of electronic communication, some Facebook users choose to forgo punctuation or use it rather loosely. Likewise, correct spelling tends to be subordinate to the communication of a thought or idea. Some social media platforms (e.g. Twitter) restrict the number of characters permitted in a communication. As a result, users tend to rely heavily on acronyms. The comments below are reproduced unedited from our Facebook page. They represent heart-felt memories and condolences of our dear Fr. Cyprian

"He was a good and solid Father...RIP" - GA

"A big loss to our province: may his soul rest in peace, we the students of the California Province in Kenya We have had the sad news our friars, sorry for the friars, may you be strengthened with the resurrection of our lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all." - MJ

"St. Margaret's Parish will never be the same without him..... Rest with the Angels....." - KL

"I have known Fr. Cyprian all my life. My grandmother's favorite priest and a dear friend of the family. He was a great priest and a great friend. At times he was tough on the younger generations, but it was because he wanted them to love and respect the church and sacred mass. I know him and my grandmother must be catching up. I feel it's due to their prayers that I am around today. Thank you Fr. Cyprian! May you rest in peace." - SC



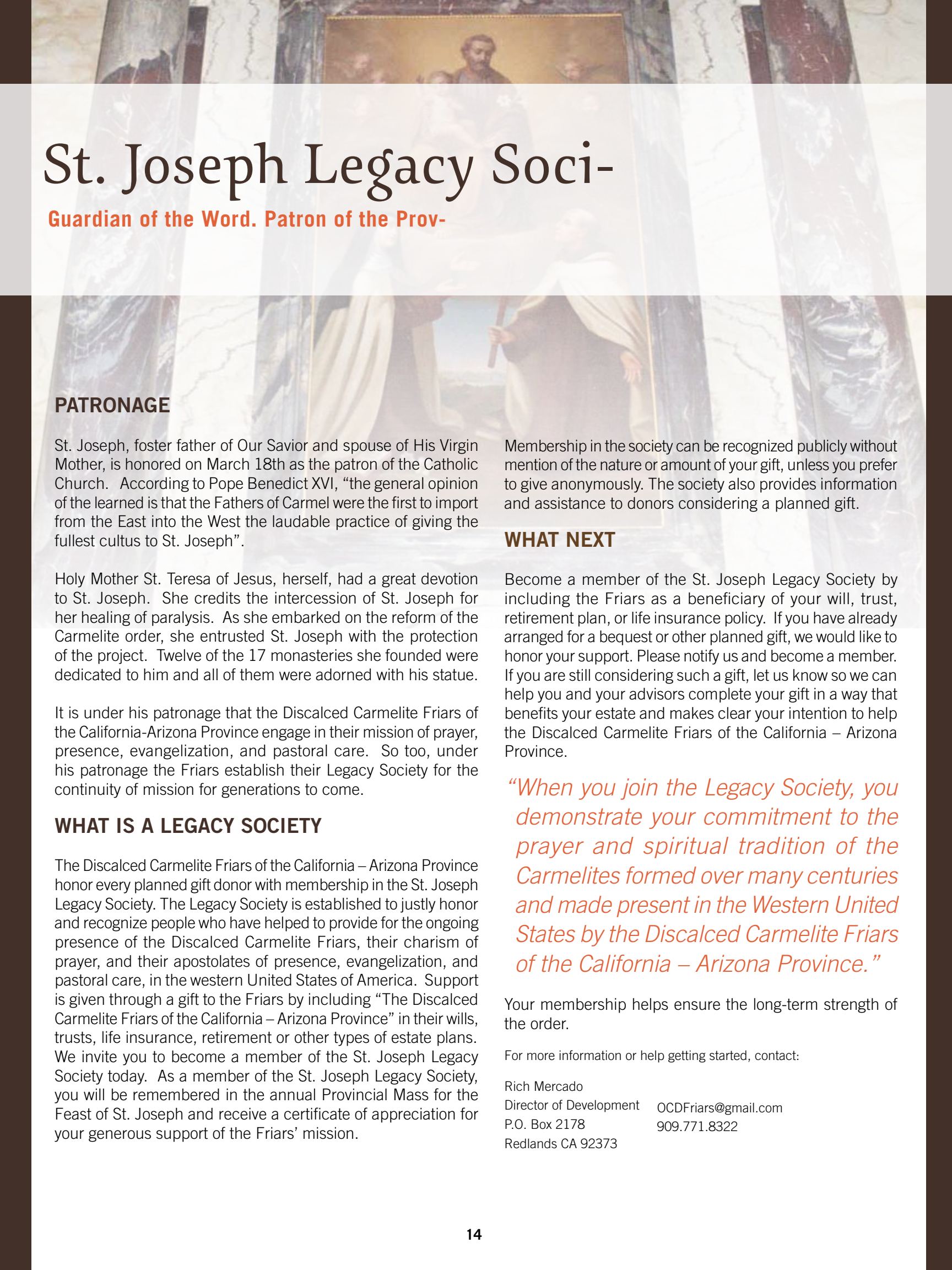
Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, AZ prepares to incense the casket of Fr. Cyprian Killackey, O.C.D. at the conclusion of the Requiem Mass

"It was a privilege to know Fr. Cyprian and to serve him on the Altar at St. Margaret Mary Church. Rest in Peace" - AR

"Amen to all of your sentiments! This lovely man of God has a treasure house of blessings waiting for him in Heaven. After our Dad passed, Father was our rock and could not have been kinder. RIP, Father Cyprian. We will never forget you. You live on in the love of God which you ignited in all of our hearts. God bless!" - GK

"A holy friar and gentle soul. Our loss is heaven's gain for surely he was welcomed there with great tenderness." - DH

"Fr. Cyprian you will truly be missed and you have a special place in my heart forever ♥" - RP



St. Joseph Legacy Soci-

Guardian of the Word. Patron of the Prov-

PATRONAGE

St. Joseph, foster father of Our Savior and spouse of His Virgin Mother, is honored on March 18th as the patron of the Catholic Church. According to Pope Benedict XVI, “the general opinion of the learned is that the Fathers of Carmel were the first to import from the East into the West the laudable practice of giving the fullest cultus to St. Joseph”.

Holy Mother St. Teresa of Jesus, herself, had a great devotion to St. Joseph. She credits the intercession of St. Joseph for her healing of paralysis. As she embarked on the reform of the Carmelite order, she entrusted St. Joseph with the protection of the project. Twelve of the 17 monasteries she founded were dedicated to him and all of them were adorned with his statue.

It is under his patronage that the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California-Arizona Province engage in their mission of prayer, presence, evangelization, and pastoral care. So too, under his patronage the Friars establish their Legacy Society for the continuity of mission for generations to come.

WHAT IS A LEGACY SOCIETY

The Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California – Arizona Province honor every planned gift donor with membership in the St. Joseph Legacy Society. The Legacy Society is established to justly honor and recognize people who have helped to provide for the ongoing presence of the Discalced Carmelite Friars, their charism of prayer, and their apostolates of presence, evangelization, and pastoral care, in the western United States of America. Support is given through a gift to the Friars by including “The Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California – Arizona Province” in their wills, trusts, life insurance, retirement or other types of estate plans. We invite you to become a member of the St. Joseph Legacy Society today. As a member of the St. Joseph Legacy Society, you will be remembered in the annual Provincial Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph and receive a certificate of appreciation for your generous support of the Friars’ mission.

Membership in the society can be recognized publicly without mention of the nature or amount of your gift, unless you prefer to give anonymously. The society also provides information and assistance to donors considering a planned gift.

WHAT NEXT

Become a member of the St. Joseph Legacy Society by including the Friars as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift, we would like to honor your support. Please notify us and become a member. If you are still considering such a gift, let us know so we can help you and your advisors complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your intention to help the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California – Arizona Province.

“When you join the Legacy Society, you demonstrate your commitment to the prayer and spiritual tradition of the Carmelites formed over many centuries and made present in the Western United States by the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California – Arizona Province.”

Your membership helps ensure the long-term strength of the order.

For more information or help getting started, contact:

Rich Mercado
Director of Development OCDFriars@gmail.com
P.O. Box 2178 909.771.8322
Redlands CA 92373



It is easier than you might think to support The Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California – Arizona Province. There are many ways to do so and very few of these require that you write a lump-sum check. Take a step in faith and discover how you can combine charitable giving with tax planning and other financial strategies to benefit your future as well as the Friars’.

Bequests

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest ways you can impact the ongoing mission of the Friars. A bequest may be made in your will or trust.

Benefits of Your Bequest

- Retain assets during life.
- Lessen the burden of taxes on your family.
- Support the Discalced Carmelite Friars.

How Do You Make a Bequest?

With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to the Friars as part of your estate plan.

Your Bequest Options

A bequest may be made in several ways:

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset
- Gift from the balance or residue of your estate



Bro. Matthias Lambrecht, Bro. Daniel White, Bro. John Pio DeLacey, and Fr. Thomas Koller (L to R) pose for a picture during their novitiate tour of the Province.



Pictured with then postulants Matthew Lambrecht (3rd from right) and Daniel White (4th from left) are: (L to R) Bro. John Pio DeLacey, Fr. Kevin McArdle, Fr. Philip Sullivan, Fr. Albert Bunsic, Fr. Cyprian Killackey (RIP), and Fr. Thomas Koller. (Tuscon, AZ; 2010)

“Take a step in faith and discover how...to benefit your future as well as the Friars”

Gift of Retirement Assets

A gift of retirement assets [IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other tax deferred plan] is an excellent way to make a gift. There is a possibility that you might not use all of your retirement assets during your lifetime. Gifts of Retirement Assets can be costly to inherit but they can be a smart and simple way to give.

Smart

Did you know that retirement plan assets can be taxed twice? Not only could your assets be diminished by estate taxes, but also your beneficiary must pay income taxes on them. Retirement plan assets passed to the Friars are not taxed.

Simple

- 1 Consult your attorney and other advisors.
- 2 Contact the administrator of your qualified retirement plan for a new beneficiary form.
- 3 Designate the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California – Arizona Province as a beneficiary of part or all of your retirement plan.
- 4 Share your plans with us. All information is kept confidential.

Other giving options to explore

Charitable Unitrust - You transfer your cash or appreciated property to fund a charitable trust. The trust sells your property tax free and provides you with payments for life or a term of years.

Charitable Annuity Trust - You transfer your cash or appreciated property to fund a charitable trust. The trust sells your property tax free and provides you with fixed payments for life or a term of years.

Charitable Lead Trust - You transfer your cash or property to fund a lead trust that makes gifts to support the Friars’ for a number of years. You receive a charitable deduction for the gift. Your family receives the remainder at substantial tax savings.

Discalced Carmelite Friars
California-Arizona Province

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Novena to St. Thérèse of Lisieux

September 23rd – October 1st

The Carmelite Friars of the California-Arizona Province will offer their annual novena to St. Thérèse of Lisieux starting Sunday, September 23, 2012 and ending on her Feast Day, Monday October 1, 2012. We would be honored to pray for your loved ones and special intentions!

Please return the enclosed envelop with your novena intentions today! Or, if you prefer, send your intentions to us online at www.ocdwest.org



Thank you!

We pray in gratitude for your generous gifts and the sacrifices you make to support our Carmelite community. In all that we do, we want the world to know the love of Jesus Christ. We ask you to continue to pray with us for God's blessings as we give life to the Carmelite traditions.

Cover Photo

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

Photography

Cherry Caparas, O.C.D.S.

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

Fr. Thomas Koller, O.C.D.

Nuns of the Georgetown Carmel

Discalced Carmelite Friars
California - Arizona Province

P.O. Box 2178 Redlands, CA 92373

OCDFriars@gmail.com
909.771.8322

If you receive multiple copies of our newsletter, please contact Rich Mercado, Development Director, 909.771.8322

www.ocdwest.org