



OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATE

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites



Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12, 2020

Dear Secular Carmelites of the Washington Province,

As you know, there has been a flurry of activity in the Main Office, with the introduction of many new, exciting features and initiatives being added daily that we hope are of service to you. Thank you for the very positive feedback and many compliments on the new website and premier edition of the new Main Office newsletter, *Carmel Connect*. We are always open to suggestions to make life easier for *you*, the members whom we serve. The 2021 Roster is almost ready for distribution and will arrive in the Community Contacts (Pres. & FD) emailboxes shortly. Here are additional recent developments of which you should be aware:

- **SEVERAL ITEMS** are now available *for purchase online* on the Provincial website (under “Store”). Please check often as more items will be added in the future.
 - Book of Documents** (\$25 each, postage paid)
 - Promise Folders** (redesigned @ \$12 each, postage paid)
 - Vocation Prayer Cards** (\$7; pack of 25, postage paid)
- **BRAND NEW FOR PURCHASE ONLINE:** We are thrilled to be able to offer *digital downloads* of the **Carmelite Digital Library (CDL)**, both MAC and PC versions (\$50 each). If you are not familiar with this *superb* concordance of the works of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, please go to the Provincial website and find a complete description of this marvelous offering under “Store.” *Please note the CDL is no longer available in CD format.*
- **NEW FILLABLE FORMS:** All OCDS forms (under “Resources”) and Order Forms (for OCDS items) can now be *filled out online* and submitted electronically. (Remember to *SAVE the completed form first* on your computer before completing and sending to the Main Office electronically, otherwise it will arrive blank.) All Forms can still be downloaded, printed and mailed to the Main Office if you would rather fill them in by hand.
- **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION OF FORMS:** In order to make things more intuitive, we have created an entirely new email address you should use when submitting any of the Forms offered on the website. Please use the NEW ocdsforms@gmail.com from now on. The old email address, ocdswashmembers@gmail.com, has been deleted and is no longer available for use. Hopefully this new email address will make it easier for you to remember when submitting forms electronically. If you send a form electronically, you will no longer have to also send in a hard copy. (The exception to this is the annual Roster and two accompanying Treasurer’s reports, though you may use the “fillable form” option to type and prepare these documents before mailing them to the Main Office.)
- **“YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH”:** Please see the OCDS Provincial website for the newly issued letter from the Fathers General of the two branches of the Carmelite Order on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, dated 12-8-20. (Under “Publications.”) For more information, you can go to cruXnow.com; there is an excellent article about the Pope’s declaration on the Year of St. Joseph.

I wish to thank the following individuals for their *most generous* donation of time and expertise in helping to make these wonderful developments possible: Michael Alley, OCDS; Ann Bouchard, OCDS; Loretta Gallagher, OCDS; David and Sandra (OCDS) Malkovsky and Mary Stewart, OCDS. Their visionary thinking and “can-do” attitude has propelled us into the electronic and digital world, with the added benefit of helping us to “go green,” thus better caring for our earth’s precious resources as our Holy Father, Pope Francis, exhorts us to in his second encyclical, *Laudato Si’*.

Blessings to you all, from my heart to your heart. Shalom!