



Casa Generalizia Carmelitani Scalzi

Corso d'Italia 38, 00198 Roma

Rome, December 21, 2021

Dear OCDS Brothers and Sisters,

Every year we rejoice with the celebration of Christmas that speaks to us of God's fidelity. Jesus comes to meet each of us and to distribute his gifts and blessings.

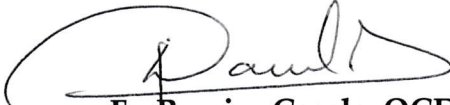
We do not have a distant God who watches us from afar. He comes to meet us: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us" (Jn 1,14), and to stay with us forever: "I will be with you every day, until the end of the world" (Mt 28,20).

Jesus invites us to walk with him in the world and to be witnesses of His love. The Virgin Mary is our model par excellence in following Jesus. She "is present in a special way, most of all as a model of faithfulness in listening to the Lord and in service to Him and to others" (Const. OCDS 4). The words that the angel Gabriel tells Mary, "do not fear" (Lk 1,30), Jesus also tells them to each of us "do not be afraid" (Mk 5,36).

In imitation of Mary, let us also say "yes" (Lc 1,38) to participate in the construction of the Kingdom of God in our world, knowing that those who put their trust in God will never be disappointed.

To all the provincial delegates, assistants of the OCDS communities, and all the members of the secular Carmel and their families, I wish that this Christmas Jesus will grant you all health, peace and joy. Let us always remember each other in prayer since for secular Carmelites "this is the time to be with God and to strengthen their relationship with Him so that they can be true witnesses of His presence in the world" (Const. OCDS 21).

Merry Christmas!


Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD

General Delegate for the OCDS

