



# Flos Carmeli

*Attention Presidents and Formation Directors*

**POSSIBLE WORKSHOP at the CEN-  
TENARY CELEBRATION in HOUSTON**

***Response requested ASAP***

The Provincial Council wishes to know as early as possible if newly elected Presidents and Formation Directors would be able to attend a highly recommended Workshop to assist them in creating effective Councils and succeeding in all formation efforts. This workshop would be during the day on Friday, March 13, 2015. It would piggyback with our Provincial OCDS Centenary Celebration in Houston on Friday (evening)-Sunday (morning), March 13-15, 2015.

The only request is that those who par-

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icipate arrive at the hotel the previous day, Thursday, March 12. There will be a welcoming reception for you. Your only cost would be the reduced \$99+tax hotel fee for the overnight. There will be no workshop registration fee, and your food costs will be covered.

This initiative by the PC is intended to eliminate the extra time and expense you might otherwise incur by our offering the workshop at a different time than in conjunction with our Provincial Celebration. It would a win/win for all.

But we do need to know ahead of time if anyone is interested in having the PC create this option. **Please let Chris Wood of the Provincial Council know as early as possible that you are able to attend by clicking on this link: <http://hstrial-ccb454.homestead.com/V-Centenary-Registration.html> Also, you can contact Chris at (832)466-6986 or [chris@chnwtx.com](mailto:chris@chnwtx.com)**

Thank you!

The Provincial Council

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## Scholarly works on Carmelite charism invited

The Carmelite Institute is inviting all students of the Carmelite Tradition to participate in the Vilma Seelaus, OCD Prize for Carmelite Spirituality. A well-known and highly respected authority on Carmelite Spirituality, Sister Vilma Seelaus was known for her insightful lectures as a gifted scholar. Her particular interest explored how Carmelite Spirituality speaks to the contemporary world and her writings combine an understanding of contemporary psychology with the spiritual depth of the Carmelite tradition. The Institute is calling for submissions from scholars, especially young scholars, interested in the Carmelite Charism. The award comes with a \$500 prize, and possible publication in a Carmelite journal. The deadline is coming soon **June 30, 2014**. Details about the award and submission requirements can be found on the Carmelite Institute's website: [CarmelStream.org](http://CarmelStream.org).

# You are invited to Our Holy Mother's birthday party

- What:** St. Teresa's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday party
- When:** Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, 2015
- Where:** Omni Houston Hotel Westside  
13210 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77079
- Activities:** Celebration Mass, prayer, music, eating, dancing, talking, conferences—all the things St. Teresa loved!

This event is sponsored by the Oklahoma Provincial Counsel in conjunction with the Houston OCDS communities. The highlight of our celebration will be a Mass concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishop George Sheltz of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The Mass will be held at 10:00am on Saturday at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church and will be open to all. After the Mass we will hold a reception in the church hall followed by a presentation on St. Teresa for all in attendance. Our objective is to use this special occasion as a way to promote to the Church at large the teaching of this great saint and its relevance in our time. The province will arrange for buses to transport OCDS members from the hotel to the Mass and back to the hotel afterwards.

As part of this celebration the province is also sponsoring a conference exclusively for OCDS members and their guests at the Omni Hotel. The conference begins on Friday evening (March 13) and will run through Sunday noon. The friars will give talks, we will pray together, have Sunday Mass at the hotel prior to departure, and a special plated dinner and "birthday party" on Saturday night to celebrate as a Carmelite family!

In order to keep the registration fees as low as possible the province will be picking up the costs for the buses, speakers, and entertainment. Registration fees for the event are anticipated to be no more than \$125 per person plus a special room rate of \$99 per night (up to 4 people per room at no additional charge).

For planning purposes we would like to get a preliminary head count of those interested in attending. Please RSVP at this link: <http://hstrial-ccb454.homestead.com/V-Centenary-Registration.html> Or contact Chris at (832)466-6986 or [chris@chnwtx.com](mailto:chris@chnwtx.com)

at your earliest convenience. We hope you will join us in Houston for this special celebration! The Oklahoma Provincial Council is also considering sponsoring a workshop for newly elected presidents and formation directors to assist them in creating effective councils and formation programs during the day Friday, March 13, 2014. Participants would be responsible for the cost of their room Thursday night, but registration and meals would be covered by the Provincial Council. Again please let Chris Wood know (at the link or contact information above) at your earliest convenience if you are interested in attending this highly rated workshop. See you in Houston!

# Report of the Provincial Council

The Provincial Council held their annual meeting in January at the Mount Carmel Center in Dallas. We were delighted to be the first people to use the new small dormitory at the Center. Thanks to the wonderful hospitality of Fr. Stephen Sanchez and Fr. Jerome Early we were made welcome and were lovingly looked after. The Provincial Council on behalf of the Seculars presented Fr. Sanchez with a donation to further the renovation of the Center. It is hoped that Seculars will in the future arrange to have their retreats at the Center.

After reviewing the reports of the 2013 Visitations, the Communities and Study Groups that are due in 2014 were determined and the councilors were assigned. According to the current monies on hand the Provincial Council will again be able to cover the cost of transportation for the Visitations scheduled this year. This is an item that is reviewed every year.

A discussion pertaining to the need to fill the 2 vacancies on the Council that would occur this spring took place. Besides numerous topics that were discussed in the course of the weekend, was the report about the progress of the Regional Congress in Atlanta this coming August, the planning for the Provincial Council workshops for presidents and directors of formation, and the arrangements being made for St. Teresa's Centenary Celebration.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Atlanta Congress in August. Our thanks go to Mary Agnes Larson and her committees for the excellent work they are doing to make this Congress a time of inspiration and friendship for all. Come one, come all!

Serving you in Carmel,

Provincial Council: Mary Kay Daniels, Dorothy Mansen, Kathryn Ney and Chris Wood

# Dorothy Mansen, PC president, says farewell

Dear Carmelite sisters and brothers,

This will be the last time that I am writing to you as President of the Provincial Council as my 6 year commitment to serving on the Council will end this May. It has been my pleasure and a blessing to me to have served you these past years. Not only as a member of the Provincial Council ,but also as a 5 year member of the Inter Provincial Council working with the Provincial Councils and their Provincial Delegates from the other two Provinces. If I had to summarize what all this has meant to me, I would have to say that the Order of Discalced Carmelites will never again be confined to just the local community I belong to, but rather now the Order includes members worldwide. I have grown to a deep appreciation of how each and every member of the Order is intrinsic to the Order.

My companion on this journey has been our Holy Mother Teresa. How great an inspiration she has been to me as I traveled across this country, planning how to get somewhere, how I would travel and where my head would rest that night. Unlike the sacrifices she made to accomplish her work, I did not have to ride in a donkey cart, beg for food or sleep on a flea infested bed of straw. I have you my sisters and brothers to thank for always providing me with warm and generous hospitality for which I am very grateful.

Any accomplishments I may have been able to have done have been because of your prayers and sacrifices on my behalf. I will always have fond memories of the times I was together with you at the 5 Congresses I was blessed to attend , the Provincial Council Workshops where members from all over quickly became united in Carmel and in your Communities and Study Groups.

I wish to thank my fellow Council members and Father Bonaventure for their companionship, dedication and diligence as we worked together to serve our sisters and brothers. It has been a privilege to know each and every one of you from the Council that was there when I started in 2008 and to the Council members that came on board in 2011 and those along the way that graciously volunteered to step in and help when there was a need. You all have been wonderful examples of what it means to be Carmel.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for me to do after having been together with my fellow members whether on a Visitation, at a Congress or at a workshop has been to say goodbye. On all of these occasions I have grown to love each and every one of you. So rather than say a painful good-bye now, I am going to say, "God willing I will see you at the Congress"!

Lovingly in Christ and Carmel,

Dorothy Mansen. OCDS

# Report of the Provincial Delegate

By Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

I am in the frigid north, the land of Canada, as I begin this report. There is a monastery of Carmelite nuns about an hour or so west of Toronto, near the town of Waterloo, Ontario. They invited me to give them their annual retreat. “Fine,” I said, and so here I am, hoping they haven’t come to regret their invitation.



It’s been cold, by my standards—which is to say, it’s been mostly in the 20s while I’m here—with lots of snow still lingering about, after a hard winter. I have been admiring it from the indoors side of my window.

As proof of the fact, for any of you doubters out there, I submit the photo to the left—showing the front of the monastery, with a statue of Mary bearing the cold.

I had a little trouble getting into the country. As I stepped up to the customs agent, he asked, “So, what brings you to Canada?”

“I’m giving a retreat to a monastery of nuns,” I answered, meekly.

“And will they be paying you,” he then inquired?

“I hope so,” I answered, almost fatally—for, as the agent then informed me, it could be that I might need a work permit.

So they sent me to the penalty box, a room off to one side, where I had to wait patiently until the supervisor arrived to speak with me further. But he had pity on my soul. After some discussion as to what exactly I would be doing, he waved me on. “We’ll consider it a donation,” he said. And so it will be.

## *Computer problems and email addresses*

My computer died on me about three weeks ago. Thanks to our resident computer whiz, a generous parishioner in San Antonio, most of the data could be extracted from the old, now lifeless machine and transplanted into the new, sparkling one, now ready to serve.

I did lose my email address book, though. In fact, I lost all of it. So, if you want to be on my email list—and I leave that up to you—please send me an email, wishing me a happy Easter, or whatever. That way I’ll have your email address. Slowly, then, I’ll replenish my list.

## *Re-election of the Provincial and the coming Provincial Chapter*

We friars have completed the process by which we elect our Provincial. And our present Provincial, Fr. Luis Joaquin Castañeda, was re-elected to serve a second term. He will assume office once again at the start of our Provincial Chapter, which will be in Oklahoma City on May 26 – June 6.

[The photo below shows Fr. Luis, our Provincial, departing from San Antonio for the long trek north to Oklahoma City and the start of the Chapter.]

It is at the Chapter that we will elect those who will serve on the Provincial Council of the friars. This Council, then, at the close of the Chapter, will officially decide what each friar's assignment will be and where he will reside for the coming triennium. It is a delicate process. So keep them, whoever they will be, and all of us, in your prayers. Thank you.

[In the photo directly below, you can see how the present OCDS Provincial Delegate is planning to travel to the Chapter. He's shipping himself FedEx. He already has his crate picked out.]

### *The OCDS Provincial Council*

As you no doubt know, we did not receive any nominations for OCDS Provincial Council within the timeframe designated. But the Spirit is never inactive. Thus, we had some Seculars of the Province generously step forward and volunteer to serve. The present Provincial Council spoke with each, did some reflection among themselves, and made their choices. The new councilors will be appointed by



the Provincial. Best of all, we will have a full Council going into the new triennium.

The whole Council will be meeting in Oklahoma City over the weekend of May 31 – June 2. Then they will meet with the friars on Tuesday, June 3. The new Councilors will, of course, be shown the ropes during this meeting.

All the friars are very thankful for this show of dedication, and for the generosity of all who serve on the Provincial Council.

### *Two major events of the Province.*

You'll notice in this issue of the *Flos Carmeli* two announcements of upcoming events. Please do not confuse them.

**First, we have the Regional Congress in Atlanta on August 21 – 24 of this year.**

This is a full-fledged congress, such as our Province hosts every three years. You will remember the wonderful congress prepared by the two communities in Lafayette, LA, three years ago. The con-

gress in Atlanta will be of the same sort.

There will be plenary talks, which will help us prepare for the upcoming centenary. The OCDS General Secretary, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, from Brazil—he is the friar who has assumed the position formerly held by Fr. Aloysius—will be there to get to know us better, improve his English, and give us a talk on the new numbers to the *Constitutions*—the ones on community. Also, the Pro-



vincial Council will make a presentation, of a particularly creative sort, challenging us to reflect on how the Secular vocation has or has not transformed us. And lastly, and importantly, there will be many fine workshops offered by OCDS of the Province on a variety of topics, each of a very practical nature.

Of course, there will be lots of time for fellowship with fellow Seculars from across the Province, and beyond.

[The photo to the left shows a view of downtown Atlanta from the 31<sup>st</sup> floor of the *Mariott Marquis*, the venue for the Atlanta Congress, looking north along Peach Tree St.]

This event, a regional congress, is of a unique sort, with its own appeal and purpose, and I hope to see many of you there. In fact, it would be good if at least someone from each community of our Province was able to attend. I see no reason why not.

**Second, there is another, equally significant event, an OCDS Centenary Celebration, scheduled for March 13 – 15 of next year, 2015. It will be in Houston.**

This event is being planned by the Provincial Council and is a onetime event, intended as part of the centenary celebration of our Province—in this case, specifically for OCDS.

It will be a shorter event, lasting from a Friday evening opening reception and presentation, through all day Saturday, to mass on Sunday morning. And while it will certainly include a presentation or two or three, its primary purpose is to provide an opportunity for the Seculars of the Province to get together and celebrate this wonderful and wise and saintly woman we call our Holy Mother.

Both the Provincial Council, in planning the centenary celebration event for March 2015 in Houston, and the four communities planning the regional congress for August 2014 in Atlanta, are doing all they can to keep costs down in order to make these events affordable to as many as possible.

Of course, I know many of you won't be able to attend both events. In making your plans, please keep in mind that the regional congress in Atlanta is the fuller event, with larger attendance. And if you can only attend one event, I would encourage you to go to the congress. But the choice is yours, either way. And indeed it is good to have such choices before us—a surfeit of riches, it seems.

Whoever goes to one or the other or both of these two events, I do hope that at least someone from each community will be able to represent their community at the congress in Atlanta and at the centenary celebration in Houston. Let's try to make sure that both events are well-attended. Indeed, it might be good to talk about the matter in your communities. Yes, please do so.

*A final word or two*

You'll find in this issue of the *Flos* a heart-felt thank you from Dorothy Mansen, OCDS, to the Province, for your having given her the opportunity to serve on the Provincial Council these past six years. I wish to return the thanks to her on your behalf. Her service has been tireless. Thank you, Dorothy.

On a couple occasions Dorothy hosted a meeting of the Provincial Council at her lovely home in suburban Dallas. Shown at the right is Dorothy standing in her kitchen calling us all to lunch. She is an excellent cook.



And, lastly, Easter will be here soon, that most blessed time of year. Liturgically, nothing compares with the Easter Triduum. I'm sure you agree. As for myself, I look forward to it happily each year. And celebrating the Triduum at the Shrine in San Antonio is a great privilege.

Shown here, then, at the left, is a photo taken from the choir loft at the start of the Easter Vigil last year. You can see the celebrants entering the church, with lit candles in hand, as the paschal candle goes before them.

May all of you have a most blessed and joyful Easter.



## **2014 OCDS Congress Update**

Hotel reservations are now being accepted for the 2014 Congress in Atlanta.

For online reservations go to

[https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_gi\\_new&groupID=20195479](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=20195479)

Each room can have up to four individuals at the one room rate.

Only one person should make the reservation, though. Otherwise four rooms will be reserved.

Should someone not have internet access, they may call the hotel at 1-866-469-5475, which is the number for reservations.

They should mention that they are with “Discalced Carmelites” and give the dates.

The Congress Website is at: <http://2014ocdscongress.net/>

New information is being added regularly. So, check it out.

Email regarding the Congress can be sent to: [2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com](mailto:2014OCDSCongress@gmail.com)



## **Sponsor an OCD Friar or Brother**

Part of coming together at a congress as a Carmelite family is to meet our Carmelite friars, brothers, and speakers. However, it is up to us to help pay for their Congress registration fees and hotel rooms and your assistance would be appreciated. Communities can submit a donation directly to the 2014 Congress Community by check, sending it to:

2014 Congress/Sponsor a Friar or Brother

Attn: Mary Agnes Larson

6393 Wedgeview Court

Tucker, GA 30084

In addition, individuals can contribute when submitting their conference registration. Please consider sponsoring an OCD religious for the full registration fee, or whatever amount you can provide. It will be a joy to see so many brown habits moving among all the seculars during the Congress, and it is very satisfying to know that a particular priest or brother is there because of your generosity. This was done in the past, most recently at the 2013 Portland Congress, with great success. In all cases, we will be sure to let the friar know which community and/or individual has sponsored them, unless instructed otherwise. When you meet him at the Congress, perhaps you can arrange to have a meal together.

# News from around the province

*Compiled by Fr Bonaventure Sauer, OCD*

My computer died on me a few weeks ago. I lost some, though not all—thank goodness—of the data stored on the old. And so I may have lost one or another news items sent to me.

If a news item of your community does not appear below, and it should, please send it to me again. I'll see that it gets into the next issue of the *Flos Carmeli*. Sorry for the lapse.

## 1. Dallas, TX—submitted by Mary Bellman, OCDS

### *(a) Visitation*

Mary Kay Daniels visited our Dallas OCDS Chapter, the Infant Jesus of Prague Community, in January. She spent three days talking and praying with us. [See the photo of our community below, with Mary Kay in the center back.]

During her full day with the community Mary Kay observed all the formation groups and then gave a presentation to the full community, coaching us on how to prepare for the 5th centenary celebration of our Holy Mother St. Teresa of Jesus' birth. She mentioned the themes of community and spirituality as of key importance. The Fall *Flos Carmeli*, she added, contained insights on how St. Teresa would approach these themes – relying on the Holy Spirit.

Mary Kay also spoke about our call to journey into God's loving presence within. There are different ways of understanding this journey in our prayer and daily living. She emphasized prayer as



the door to our relationship with Christ and, through him, with the Holy Trinity, who is the focus of our lives.

Mary Kay's conference was a much appreciated reflection for everyone, and we were all delighted to spend time with her. Thanks so much, Mary Kay!

### *(b) New President of Dallas OCDS Community*

*(Continued from page 12)*

In our recent election Mary Bellman was named President of the Dallas OCDS Community. The community would like to thank Betty Turicchi, our President for the past three years, for her outstanding leadership and guidance. Shown in the photo here is of Betty, our outgoing president, at the left, handing over the reins to Mary Bellman, our new president, on the right.



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2.

**Houston, TX, Holy Trinity—submitted by Rebecca Segura, OCDS**

Our community of The Most Holy Trinity and St. Joseph in Houston, Texas, had our annual retreat on Friday, February 28, through Sunday, March 2, at the Mount Carmel House of Prayer on Deer Trail

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Ave. Fr. Gregory Ross was our Retreat Master.

Visitors sometimes attend our retreat. And a few did this year. Thus, the photo above shows our community, enlarged by a few visitors, and Fr. Gregory, our retreat master [in the back center left]. Notice all the happy smiles. It was a good retreat.



During the retreat Mr. Raymond Viernes, OCDS, made profession of his First Promise in our community. The photo to the left shows, from left to right, Becky McGinnis, OCDS, our Formation Director, Raymond himself, our newly professed, then Fr. Gregory, and Cruz Coronado, president of our community.

God blessed us during this retreat. May he bless each of you each day.

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### **3. St. Teresa Study Group—Houston, TX**

Margaret Dufilho, OCDS, a member of the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face community in Houston, TX, has organized a study group in her parish as a way to celebrate the coming centenary. It is called the St. Vincent Teresian Study Group and is open to any interested persons. It's a small group, but with an eager and joyful spirit, all of them happy campers, whose love for Holy Mother is being deepened and strengthened together.

You can see below a photo of our study group gathered for its discussion, each sporting a volume of St. Teresa's collected works.



(Continued from page 14)

May God prosper all our efforts during this coming celebration of St. Teresa's birthday as members of the family she started.

#### **4. A couple centenary initiatives**

(a) *The Order has officially announced the following:*

There will be an International Teresian Conference, entitled "I was born for you," in Ávila, Spain, on August 10-14, 2015.

"The V Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus unites Carmel throughout the world in celebration of the person and spirit of Teresa, our Holy Mother. The gathering of Carmelites announced above is one of many and various initiatives the Order is carrying out during the Centenary year. But we wish to celebrate in a special way with a great conference in Ávila itself, open to the whole Carmelite family and to other Teresian congregations and movements. We hope to reanimate a sense of family among us and deepen our Teresian spirituality."

The link below will take you to the page on the Generalate website where you can find further information about the Conference. It is in Spanish. If you click the small British flag, the Union Jack, in the upper right hand corner, you'll get a translation into English. Unfortunately, the *Webroot Anti-Virus Program* I have on my computer tells me, when I try to open the English translation page, that it is unsafe. There is a moderate risk of malware, it says. You may not have the same experience. But be forewarned.

<http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/ampliar-noticia/encuentro-teresiano-internacional--93para-vos-naci-94-avila--10-14-agosto-2015#.UzR4Uvk7um4>

(b) *Saint Teresa's Interior Castle is now a videogame:*

The developer of the game write:

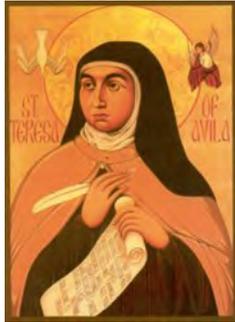
"This project is our attempt to share our conviction of the importance of the interior life, the greatness of the soul, and the spiritual beauty of each person. In today's world, it has become increasingly difficult to establish dialogue with persons about the spiritual life using a language that, although beautiful and profound, is perhaps a bit strange to them.

The idea of a videogame is not, therefore, meant to parody the spiritual way, but to provide a beacon for those who may have wondered about the interior life, but had no way to approach it.

We took up the idea of such a game in 2011, sharing it first with some brother students. Then we began the design. One of the brothers is a talented illustrator, and he provided a quick sketch of a little, adventuresome Friar that battles against vermin surrounding the castle. The little Friar wants to reach the deepest center, but first has to dispose himself and make the effort to enter and start on his way . . ."

A link to a page introducing the game and providing a link where you can play it online is given below. It seems that the game itself is only in Spanish.

[http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/ampliar-noticia/el-castillo-interior-de-santa-teresa-en-videojuego#.UzA4F\\_k7um4](http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/ampliar-noticia/el-castillo-interior-de-santa-teresa-en-videojuego#.UzA4F_k7um4)



## **In the Hands of God**

***I am yours and born for you,  
What do You want of me?  
Yours I am, for You I was born:  
What do you want of me?***

Commemoration of the birth of Teresa Sanchez de Cepeda y Ahumada in Avila  
March 28, 1515

Happy Birthday to our Holy Mother St. Teresa  
Blessings to all Carmelites at this special time!

Dorothy Mansen, OCDS  
And the Provincial Council