

Flos Carmeli

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse
Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Spring 2021
Volume XXXI No. 2

From the President's Desk

By Anna Peterson, OCDS—President of the Provincial Council

He is risen; He is risen, indeed!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

As the Church begins the celebration of this blessed season, we consider what Pope St. John Paul II's words imply when he refers to us as an Easter people – a resurrection people and Alleluia is our song.

We are happy that many communities are beginning to be able to meet in person again. Many have sorely missed the in-person interaction with our brothers and sisters in Carmel that cannot be achieved with phone calls and social media. Many of us have come to better appreciate that special time set aside each month for our community meetings – a shared time for prayer, learning, and socializing.

The Provincial Council (PC) was very disappointed about having to cancel the 2021 OCDS Congress in Houston. It was an extremely difficult decision. We extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to Laura Durant, her co-chair, Michelle Estep, and to the Planning Committee for their dedication over the last two years. The PC is making preliminary plans to offer an abbreviated program of talks and discussion via ZOOM for our members. We recently learned that the California/Arizona Province has cancelled the 2022 OCDS Congress.

Many of you already learned that the PC will resume visitations this year. Plans include scheduling 2021-cycle visitations as well as completing a modified or full visitation for those communities on the 2020-cycle whom we were unable to visit.

REMINDER

Triennial Appointment/Reappointment of Spiritual Assistants. One of the duties of the local council is to petition for the appointment or reappointment of a Spiritual Assistant each triennium.

(See the Policy and Request Form at www.theresecods.org).

Q & A

Q. Our council has noticed some outdated local policies in our handbook. What options do we have?

A. Each new council, each triennium, has the responsibility to review current local policy and is free to revise or to create policy, as well as to eliminate any policy. Be sure to inform the community members of any changes that are made.

Yours in Carmel,

Anna Peterson, OCDS

**President, Provincial Council
for the OCDS Oklahoma Semi-Province**

Council Members:

*Barbara Basgall, OCDS, Mark Calvert, OCDS,
Maxine Latiolaís, OCDS and Jillison Parks, OCDS*



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*In this house, all must be friends, all must be loved, all must be held dear, all must be helped.
(Holy Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus)*

Report from Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

You will be receiving this edition of the *Flos* as we begin our Easter season. It is easy to ‘rejoice and be glad’ the first week of Easter. We have the external signs that support and help that experience of newness – the multiplicity of greens that have sprouted, the bare trees budding, the early spring flowers, the birds busy finding places to build their nests, etc. Perhaps you were blessed to attend the Triduum and Easter services somewhere. But after the initial bursts of enthusiasm and fervor have diminished, we are left with the task of moving forward with our lives and must recommit to live out the baptismal promises we just renewed.

Our Easter season lasts until the Vigil of Pentecost, and then we begin our season of Ordinary Time. The question I place before you at this time is that of the maintenance of the Easter joy until the time of Pentecost. How do you plan to maintain this Easter recommitment? What will be your stance, your interaction with and view of the surrounding landscape? Am I willing to recommit to viewing the world as a disciple? I do not mean a Pollyanna-ish view that refuses to see the hard work at hand, but one that recommits to living out the radical ‘new’ creatureliness that we took on at our baptism and to which we ‘re-vow’ every Easter. The joy of the disciple is the joy of deep conviction/knowledge that we are the children of a Loving Father and that this knowledge gives me the strength to walk through this broken world with an abiding peace in my heart and soul.

Those of us friars who had the privilege of having Fr. Adrian Cooney, OCD as our novice master will recall his yearly reminder – ‘We are an ‘Alleluia’ People!’ – meaning a People of the Risen Lord and therefore called to a fundamental stance of Thanksgiving and Joy. This can be a bit of a challenge if we allow the ‘fallen-ness’ of the world take up our whole horizon; we must be able to step back a bit and see the temporal order within the greater horizon of the world and all of creation moving towards its end in the Risen Christ. We have to ask ourselves if we are allowing other ‘voices’ and ideologies cloud our vision and understanding of who we are and how we are called to live out our lives as disciples of the Risen Lord. Do I allow these ideologies to color my understanding of self and others; do I understand that I belong to an ‘us,’ a ‘we’ that challenges me daily to consider the well-being of others?

We can be like St. Peter on Mount Tabor – ‘Lord! It is good for us to be here!’ However, the Lord Himself asks us to go down unto the plain and be the agents of change.

May the Risen One bless you with His Spirit and Joy and may the sure knowledge of the Father’s Love give you the courage to live as His.

in Him,

Fr. Stephen



†
Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary, that
never was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought
thine intercession was left
unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee, O Virgin of
virgins, my mother; to thee do I
come, before thee I stand, sinful
and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word
Incarnate, despise not my
petitions, but in thy mercy hear
and answer me. Amen.

News from the Province—National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thérèse, San Antonio, Texas Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD—Explanation of Image #2—Carmelite Friars

Explanation of the Artwork by Fr. Stephen Sánchez, OCD:

As you enter the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thérèse in San Antonio, Texas, you will see on your left, stained glass windows by Emil Frei depicting various events in the life of our Holy Mother St. Teresa of Jesus. On the right you will see stained glass windows depicting various events in the life of our Holy Father St. John of the Cross. All along the bottom of the major windows you will see in the lower windows a procession of nuns on the left and friars on the right all carrying religious symbols in their hands as they process towards the main altar.

Along the bottom of the major windows depicting the life of our Holy Father St. John of the Cross, you have a procession of friars moving towards the main altar. The friars are dressed in the full habit (which includes the white mantle). We see the first friar carrying a statue of the Child Jesus – this references the devotion of the Order to the Child Jesus, firstly as he appeared to Our Holy Mother at the Monastery of the Incarnation and then through devotion to the Infant of Prague a miraculous statue given to the friars in Prague by Princess Polixena in 1628. The second friar carries a monastery – referencing not only our monastic roots but also recalling the first foundation of the friars in Duruelo, Spain. The third friar carries a globe with a cross on top – this is a reference to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, King of Kings and only Lord. The fourth friar carries the shield of the Order which represents Mount Carmel with the Cross at the top representing the missionary aspect of the Order and the three six-pointed stars on the shield that represent the three epochs of the Order: the Prophetic, from Elijah to the time of St. John the Baptist; the Greek epoch from the time of St. John the Baptist to Berthold, the first Latin General of the Order; and the epoch from Berthold to the end of time. There is also a gold crown at the top of the shield that represents the Kingdom of God in Christ to whom we owe allegiance.



Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Thérèse Financial Report

January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Balance as of January 1, 2020		<u>\$27,721.14</u>
Income:		
Visitation travel	\$700.00	
Provincial assessment	40,445.00	
Other	-	
Total funds in		<u>\$41,145.00</u>
Expenses:		
Visitations	\$2,625.44	
2020 Provincial Delegate	5,000.00	
PC Transition Meeting - San Antonio	6,069.59	
Plenary Council Meeting	550.00	
Postage	0.00	
Office Supplies	63.81	
COA Pay	4,981.75	
PC website charges	254.80	
OCDS General Secretariat Assessment	5,000.00	
Carmelite Institute	0.00	
Miscellaneous expenses	753.27	
Total Expenses		<u>\$25,298.66</u>
Ending balance as of December 31, 2020		<u>\$43,567.48</u>

News from the Province—The Transfiguration Community, Knoxville, Tennessee

Submitted by Mark Calvert, OCDS

On Sunday, March 21, 2021, four Aspirants in the Knoxville OCDS Community of the Transfiguration were clothed with the scapular of the Order. The Community's Spiritual Assistant, Cardinal Justin Rigali, presided at the ceremony, which was held in the St. Joseph Garden at the Chancery of the Diocese of Knoxville.



Cardinal Rigali addresses
the community



Rosemary Calvert
receives the scapular



Marlene Karwowski
receives the scapular



John Kobza
receives the scapular



David Whittaker
receives the scapular



Left to right: Spiritual Assistant,
Cardinal Justin Rigali, Rosemary
Calvert, Marlene Karwowski,
John Kobza, David Whittaker,
and Formation Director Valerie
Ponce.

News from the Province—Mary, Mother of Grace, Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

Rituals were held prior to Evening Prayer II on Thursday, March 25, 2021, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Maurice, LA.



Clothing Ritual: (Left to Right)

Lona Carroll, Chad Mayer, and
Gerald Matthews

What it Means to Me to Be a Carmelite

By an OCDS member while preparing for Final Profession

As I reflect more deeply about my call to be a Carmelite, I want to better understand how to live as a Carmelite. To be called by God into the Carmelite way of living and loving is to be called by God to get closer to Him in order to love Him more, and with more constancy. To be called to Carmel is to be graced to ascend more surely than the grace of my Baptism affords me. For some mysterious reason, Lord only knows why, our dear Lord has invited me to approach Him and unite myself to Him even closer through this means. The invitation has been given; the question is how will I respond. The Carmelite path is a sure path to intimate union with God but the Lord knows how weak and ill prepared I am, intellectually and spiritually, because my faith is weak and my love for comfort and self-will is strong. It is only with His grace that I can begin this journey and it will only be His grace for whatever I might accomplish; hopefully, someday I will learn how to love Him.

My dear Lady, I call Mama, knows how little I am, and she will supply what I need to give what Jesus desires. Mama, please accomplish in me whatever it is Jesus desires of me. I am too little; the task is too great. The sins of my past have dulled my sight and darkened and damaged my will. I trust in God's mercy on me; it's a long walk back home.

To better help me to understand the way of the Carmelites, I study the words and life of my sisters in Carmel, Thérèse and Teresa (Andes). I have such love and admiration for these dear saints. Thérèse has helped me to love Him by her example and her little way. How do I live my call to Carmel in light of my desire? I shall strive to show kindness, forgiveness and placing the needs of others before myself; to only speak of another's good qualities and my bad qualities; to foster in me meekness as opposed to arrogance, and true love for my neighbor. Let this be my outward show of love.

Being in Carmel is my act of giving myself to Mary, asking her to give me to Jesus. By struggling to follow Jesus, living my faith, following the commands of Jesus as given by our Church, I die to myself, that is, I deny myself inordinate pleasure, I deny the will of my nature and its unholy passions, and I fulfill my daily duty to my Lord, my Church, my family and to my neighbor. This dying to myself is both a voluntary and involuntary suffering that I willfully offer to Jesus. With these, my poor efforts, I try to follow Jesus to Calvary and I trust Him and what He has said, that He will abide within me and live in me. If any of my desire to love Him has any merit, I would offer that to Him in reparation for my sins and those of others as He sees fit. I desire to be a Carmelite to love Jesus better through Mary's help.

I am not called to live the life of a consecrated religious, as God has called me to married life and all that this life entails. Living in the world makes it impossible to focus completely on Jesus in solitude. And, I know that God does not ask what is not possible. So, how do I unite myself to God, to be alone with Him? I must first desire to pray and unite myself to Him, and then I must strive to do this as best I can. Carmel gives me a way. I must strive to be alone with Him so that I can hear Him as He tries to guide me. I must strive to be alone with Him to love Him more intensely. Even in the noise of the world I must strive to rest in Him to find Joy and peace of soul. Little sufferings are all I have and I pray for the grace to be able to offer big sufferings when they come. To know that the things that I must do to love Him is easy, to do them is difficult and I must say I have not been able to do as yet. Carmel is the way and the place of that solitude with Jesus.

It is my calling as a Carmelite to pray, to love, and to suffer for my sins and my growth in sanctity and for others, especially priests. My dear Jesus is asking me to assist Him in saving souls especially obtaining grace for

(Continued on page 8)

What it Means to Me to Be a Carmelite

By an OCDS member while preparing for Final Profession

(Continued from page 7)

priests to remain strong in their faith, to become holy and to be an instrument of Divine mercy. This path has not unfolded as yet. for the journey is just beginning, and I pray for perseverance to fulfill the task that He is asking of me, to please our dear Lord.

As a Carmelite Secular I am graced with the privilege to offer what I can, considering my state in life, and share in the merits of the Carmelite religious who offer their lives for poor sinners as well as all the Carmelite saints who have gone before us and given such edifying examples of loving and serving the Lord.

As a Carmelite Secular I must also reflect on this obligation and privilege of reparation and pray that I may learn to love our dear Lord enough to offer myself in ways that I can, as He directs me through inspiration and circumstances. My Jesus, as you know I am not driven by a desire to save souls but only a desire to love you more and to please you. I know of your love for all souls and what you endured for me and them and so for your sake I pray to save souls. I offer my sacrifices and sufferings in reparation for my sins and the sins of others. I make this act with my will because it is your will as is evidenced by calling me to Carmel.

As a Carmelite, I am privileged with a special bond to the Blessed Mother. I don't know what form this may take, but I have absolute confidence and trust that she approaches me even closer. As close persons are wanting to do, she entrusted me with a special request of service to her son Jesus. She has, in a fashion, trusted me and entrusted my help in her cause. She shows me the way to help by her example: by praying, suffering and loving all in the silence of my heart and soul. Dearest Mother, help me to do and be all that you ask of me. Help me to grow closer to you and to Jesus. Mother, teach me how to love.

How can we value the price of an individual soul? By observing what God has done for each soul. Jesus has offered an infinite value through His suffering and death for the salvation of my soul and all people. As a Carmelite, He is asking me to "make up for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ" by my offerings of prayer, self-denial and suffering. What a grace and privilege that Jesus would ask this of me, one who is the most unworthy of His goodness. Lord Jesus you ask, and I want to do it but I do not know how. Help me to do what you ask.

Anonymous

Saint Joseph, Patron and Protector of Carmel, pray for us.

Rome, Easter, 2021

Dearest Brothers and Sisters of the OCDS,

In these days, we celebrate the central Mystery of the Christian Faith: The Paschal Mystery. In the events of the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus, we find God's salvific plan: The Cross is the expression of the endless love gifted by Jesus in his existence for others; He, in each encounter with each person manifests the infinite and eternal Love of the Father; at the same time Resurrection, manifests that the Love of God effects only abundant life (cf. John 10,10). Furthermore: "the fact that 'the crucified is resurrected' (Mark 16,6) demonstrates that the Love with which the Son has gifted Himself is capable of opening unlimited horizons of life for the human beings of all time. (M. de Santis, *Il Risorto*, 16); it is the Event for excellence in the history of all of humanity which both confirms and frightens, just as it had filled the women at the tomb who with surprising wonder wanted to anoint His Body: at their arrival the sun had already risen, and the stone had already been rolled back: The Resurrected had preceded them!



And so, to celebrate Easter is significant in the realization that "the Resurrection had not cancelled out the Passion", but it had assumed it while transfiguring it into new meaning. The Cross expresses the summit of the earthly Jesus's life dedicated to love and service; a once afflicted face now appears in luminous splendour. (id., p.24). Therefore, it is not remaining fixated next to the open tomb, with regrets, that we find Jesus, but rather in the life of Faith that He professed, and that is put into motion behind His steps until the very end; that very Faith confessed by the Roman centurion at the foot of the cross: "Truly, this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15,39; cf.1,1).

The Resurrected, with His Word, invites us to follow Him wherever: "go, speak..." (Mark 16,7), He precedes us in Galilee. From this moment, the mission is now the place of encounter with the Resurrected Christ. His invisible Presence as the faithful and eternal Good Shepherd, filling the eternity of time while encompassing all aspects of time and place; where we are to be fearless in our walk through the dark valleys of history; and where He invites us to accept His victorious and eternal love. He invites us to follow His Way committed to the creation of His Kingdom.

With sincere wishes of a Holy Easter of the Resurrection, in which Christ leaves us "totally clothed in beauty and dignity" (Spiritual Canticle 5,4), I wish that the paschal joy and peace of the Resurrected reaches wherever you may be and that it remain in the heart of each and everyone of you.

Fraternally,

Fr. Alzinir Francisco Debastiani, OCD

Carmelite Obituaries



James (Jim) Walsh

James (Jim) Walsh, OCDS

Community of San Juan de la Cruz, Houston, TX

Submitted by Denise Graham, OCDS

Jim passed into eternal life on November 10, 2020 at the age of 82. Jim was clothed into the Carmelite community on July 14, 1990 and made his final promise on January 13, 1996. Jim was an active member of the community which included duties as president and treasurer. Jim remained an active member even after moving into a nursing home as a member of our community would pick him up and take him to the meetings. Jim loved St. John of the Cross. When our Community would study St. John, he would volunteer to give teachings on him. Jim loved to travel and even made a trip to Avila, Spain. In his early years, Jim was a high school Chemistry teacher at Aldine High School. Jim was an active member of St. Edwards Catholic Church.

“In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved.” St. John of the Cross



Joan Julia Brady, OCDS

Community of St. John of the Cross and St. Anthony

Baton Rouge, LA

Submitted by Patricia Ricord, OCDS

Joan Brady died peacefully at the age of 88 on December 4, 2019. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years, Deacon Eugene F. Brady, OCDS. Joan is survived by seven children, nineteen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and three brothers.

Joan transferred to our community from the Gulfport, Mississippi community in September 1994. She had previously made her Definitive Promise in November 1989.

Joan suffered from a chronic illness which limited her mobility and she was put on infirm status in 1991. On those happy occasions when she was able to attend a meeting or a profession, it was always a joy to see her beautiful smile. Joan wanted to contribute to the community in some way, so she was on the telephone committee for several years. She will always be remembered for her cheerful disposition and deep piety in the midst of suffering.



Carmelite Obituaries



Karen Elizabeth Henry Dower, OCDS

Community of St. John of the Cross and St. Anthony

Baton Rouge, LA

Submitted by Patricia Ricord

Karen Elizabeth Dower departed this life for eternity on November 29, 2019 at the age of 74. She was born in Houma, Louisiana on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. Karen was a retired art teacher and portrait artist. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her brother Dana Henry, his wife, Clara and their children and grandchildren of Denton, Texas.

Karen was definitively professed in May 2011 and served on our Prayer Line. After a series of health problems, she was put on infirm status in September 2019. She was a quiet and gentle presence in our community.



Maria del Rosario (Rosie) Withers, OCDS

Cameron County OCDS

Group in Discernment, Harlingen, Texas

Submitted by Maggie Flores, OCDS

Maria del Rosario (Rosie) Withers, age 71, went to be with our Lord, November 28, 2020. She was born April 24, 1949 in Monterrey, Mexico.

Rosie was a member of the Cameron County Discalced Carmelite Seculars, a Group in Discernment in Harlingen, Texas, under the guidance of St. Miriam of Jesus Crucified Community in McAllen, Texas. She was clothed in Carmel on September 12th, 2016. Rosie made her temporary promise on September 17, 2018, and her final promise was coming up in September 2021. She served as Secretary for two years from September 28, 2018 until the time of her death. She was very active in multiple ministries as a member of Our Lady of Assumption Church in Harlingen. Her kindness and commitment to Jesus is fondly remembered by all. Private services were held for the immediate family only.

Carmelite Obituaries



Myra Forbes, OCDS

Community of St. John of the Cross and St. Anthony

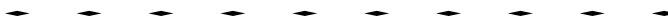
Baton Rouge, LA

Submitted by Patricia Ricord, OCDS

Myra Forbes died on July 5, 2020 at the age of 93. She was born in Marksville, LA and settled in Baton Rouge after marrying her husband of 64 years, Donald Dee Forbes, Sr. Myra was devoted to her family which included three sons, a daughter, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Myra made her Definitive Promise in Carmel in May 1994. She served on the community Prayer Line and arrived early to set up the Carmelite statues, banner and other items for the meeting.

Myra had been on the infirm list for several years, but always kept in touch with the community. She enjoyed receiving the Flos Carmeli newsletter as well as minutes of the meetings which were mailed to her. She loved her vocation and community.



Geraldine Romero Darby

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace (Lafayette #1)

Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

April 3, 1934 to February 12, 2021

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 13, 2021 in La Chapelle de Martin & Castille in Lafayette, for Geraldine Romero Darby, 86, who passed away February 12, 2021 at Maison de Lafayette in Lafayette.

She was formerly employed by Don's Seafood and Steakhouse and the Lafayette Townhouse. Gerry served her church parish as a Eucharistic Minister. She made her Cursillo and worked many of the Cursillo Retreats.

She loved her family and was always happy to be at Carmel. Gerry began her journey in Carmel as a member of the Discalced Secular Community of Mary, Mother of Grace, receiving the Brown Scapular on November 21, 1993, professed her Temporary Promise on November 19, 1995 and her Definitive Promise on November 15, 1998. Gerry professed Vows on November 21, 1999.

Carmelite Obituaries



Lou Ella Lanerie Lormand

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace (Lafayette #1)
Lafayette, Louisiana
Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

September 10, 1923 to October 13, 2020

Funeral Services were held October 16, 2020, in the Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers for Lou Ella Lanerie Lormand, 97, who passed away on October 13, 2020 at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center.

Lou was always active in her church, known for her compassionate and meek spirit. She was also very involved as a member of the Secular Discalced Order of Carmel, Come Lord Jesus Bible Study, Altar Society at St. Genevieve and Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. Lou was clothed in the Brown Scapular on September 10, 1967. She professed her Promise on October 13, 1968. Lou professed Vows on July 16, 1987.



Peggy Ruth Parker Perret

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace (Lafayette #1)
Lafayette, Louisiana
Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

April 18, 1927 to March 26, 2021

Peggy Ruth Parker Perret passed away peacefully at her home March 26, 2021, surrounded by her children. She was 93 years old. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Doucet Road. A private family rosary was recited. She earned a Degree in Education from LSU in 1947 and a Masters' Degree in Theology from Loyola University at the age of 60. She was a member of the Discalced Secular Carmelite Community of Mary, Mother of Grace, and founded a Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. Mary's Catholic Church, praying for his beatification and canonization. Peggy was instrumental in Fr. Joseph Brennan's writing the memories of his twenty-year friendship with Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Peggy was clothed in the Brown Scapular on May 26, 1963, and professed her Promise on July 19, 1964, taking the devotional name of Paula of the Annunciation. A convert to Catholicism, she was a daily communicant and initiated Sunday afternoon family rosary held weekly for more than thirty years.

Carmelite Obituaries



Dorothy “Jean” Delhomme Castille

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace (Lafayette #1)

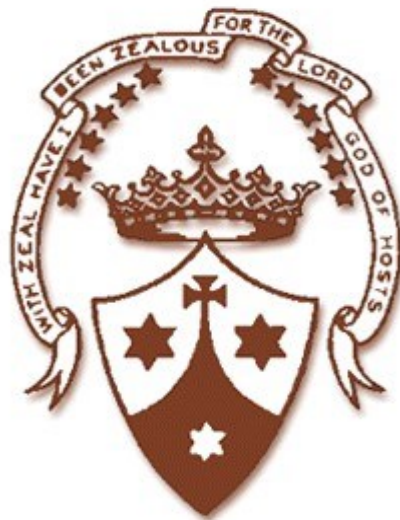
Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

May 19, 1931 to February 18, 2021

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated February 24, 2021 at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Breaux Bridge for Dorothy "Jean" Delhomme Castille, 89. A devout Catholic, whose faith was unwavering, Jean exemplified Christian values. She was lifelong parishioner of St. Bernard Catholic Church and was actively involved in her church parish, as a member of the Catholic Daughters, Altar Society, Parish Council, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, and served as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and a Religion teacher for Catechism. Jean and her husband were instrumental in helping to organize the opening of St. Bernard Chapel of Perpetual Adoration, which was completed in 1981.

In 1978 Jean joined the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites Community of Mary Mother of Grace in Lafayette, located at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery. She was clothed with the Brown Scapular and formally professed Final Promise on July 16, 1978, on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, taking the devotional name of Margaret Mary of the Sacred Heart. After seven years, she made her vow profession on May 18, 1986. A beloved member, Jean was always delighted to introduce Carmel to new members and the love she had for Carmel and her Carmelite community.



Carmelite Obituaries



Karol Domingue Meynard

Community of Mary, Mother of Grace (Lafayette #1)

Lafayette, Louisiana

Submitted by Jeannine Meaux, OCDS

December 1, 1946 to February 22, 2021

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on February 25, 2021 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Lafayette for Karol Domingue Meynard, 74, who died on Monday, February 22, 2021 in Lafayette.

Karol began her employment with the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette in November of 1991 in the Office of Tribunal where she was an auditor. During that time, she was the Adult Catechesis & RCIA Coordinator for St. Patrick Catholic Church, Lafayette, LA from 1993 to 1995. She served on the school board for Carencro Catholic School from many years. During that time, she accompanied her husband, Leonard Meynard, in the Diaconate Formation Program. Together they worked for St. Peters Catholic Church, Carencro starting in 1996. Karol became the parish co-director of Adult Catechesis, RCIA, & CANA ministries and a pastoral general council member for the church. After the loss of her husband in 2000, she repurposed her faith and became the Director of the Office of Pro-Life Issues for the Diocese in 2001. She served on the school board for Carencro Catholic School for many years.

She worked for four bishops during her employment with the Diocese of Lafayette:

- Archbishop Emeritus Harry Flynn
- Bishop Edward O'Donnell
- Bishop Michael Jarrell
- Bishop Douglas Deshotel

In addition to her Diocesan work, Karol became a humble servant in Carmel. She began her journey in Carmel with her profession of Temporary Promise on May 16, 1999 and Definitive Promise on May 19, 2002. And of course, in Karol Joan style, (her devotional name was John Paul II of Jesus & Mary) if she was involved in any organization, she became not just a member but a leader. She served as president of the community for six years beginning January 2006 until January 2011 and was currently serving as a Council Member for three years beginning January 2020.

Karol always lived her vocation and was true to her promise of chastity, poverty, and obedience at all times. She reflected a true Carmelite spirit by sharing her immense love, encouragement, and support constantly to each member of the community. Her passion and joy were contagious, and she epitomized the phrase "Joie de Vivre". She loved life. Her beautiful eyes and infectious smile lit up the room.

Parting Words

Flos Carmeli provides information for the Secular members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in the Oklahoma Semi-Province, which has jurisdiction over OCDS members living in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

Oklahoma Semi-Province members wishing to submit articles for publication in the *Flos Carmeli* or for subscription information, please contact Maxine Latiolais, Provincial Council *Flos Carmeli* coordinator, at flos.submit@gmail.com

The submission due dates for articles are:

January 1
April 1
July 1
October 1

Any OCDS member submitting an article must include their name, community name and location in the article.

St. Teresa of Jesus (Avila), "The Way of Perfection", Chapter 26, 4

“Look at Him as risen.
Just imagining how He rose from the tomb
will bring you joy.
The brilliance! The beauty! The majesty!
How victorious! How joyful!”

Getting the *Flos Carmeli* to members

Community presidents, please remember that the Semi-Province no longer mails out copies of the Flos Carmeli to communities. It is the community's responsibility to get a copy to each of your members, either via email or by print. This includes all isolate, aged, or infirm members. Thank you!

Semi-Provincial Council for the 2020-2023 Triennium:

Anna Peterson, San Antonio, TX, President

Barbara A. Basgall, Oklahoma City, OK

Mark Calvert, Knoxville, TN

Maxine Latiolais, New Iberia, LA

Jillison Parks, Savannah, GA