

# CARMEL CLARION



OCDS NEWSLETTER

Eastern Regional Office

THE COMMON

182 Old Street Road

Peterborough NH 03458-1699

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VOLUME XI, NO. 3/4

NOV 95--JAN 96

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM  
YOUR PROVINCIAL DELEGATE:  
FATHER PATRICK FARRELL OCD

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Secular  
Order,

May this Advent and Christmas season be  
an inner peace-filled time for you! It is a  
time of hope. But sometimes we trust too  
much in the wrong things.

I remember several years ago when New  
York had a World's Fair at which the Vati-  
can exhibited the famous Pieta statue. The  
crowds were thick. Trying not to lose sight  
of family members and friends, I suddenly  
felt my hand grabbed! I looked down to see  
a little child had adopted me. I can't  
remember if the toddler was a boy or girl.

But what trust! Unless you become like  
little children...

Unfortunately, with such crowds I did not  
want to take the child to a station where  
you find lost parents. So, I asked the tot,  
"Do you see your mommy or daddy? Go to  
them." At that point either the mother or  
father noticed the child was missing and  
came over, offering a hand to my tiny  
companion.

Something like that happens to us in our  
journey through life. We grab on to the  
wrong thing. Our trust is great, but eventu-  
ally we discover ourselves disappointed and  
frustrated.

Take prayer, for instance. It is so easy to  
trust in technique or feelings. Sometimes it  
does not take long for these to let us down.  
Just when you think you have finally  
learned the right technique of prayer,  
distractions and dryness occur.

Does it take a lifetime to learn to let go of  
wrong trusts? If it is any consolation,  
recall the question of the apostles when  
Jesus told them the rich were not necessari-  
ly so well off: "*Then who can be saved?*"

Were the hand-picked apostles fast learners,  
or like ourselves?

St John of the Cross spends many pages of  
his Ascent/Dark Night warning us of trust-  
ing in the goods of sense, intellect, or even  
the heavenly gifts of the spirit. They are  
good gifts of God, not God.



ST. TERESA OF JESUS

(See next page.)

Did Teresa of Avila, the great Mystic, have trouble with prayer?"

St Teresa claims she had trouble with discursive or talking prayer. She gives us loads of illustrations of discursive prayer when she wrote for others. You would think God was looking over her shoulder.

Her problem seemed to be what-to-say when at formal prayer. (The Secular Order Rule refers to this as the *exercise* of prayer.)

I have heard many tell me they have no problem talking to God all day long. But kneel, sit, or stand for the 15 or 30 minutes of mental prayer. . . and they don't know what to say.

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Cheer up. St Teresa of Avila turned out all right! First Woman "Doctor of the Universal Church!" And she had problems with prayer! So, don't get discouraged.

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St Teresa tells us prayer is like a conversation. It involves the speaker, what is said, and the listener.

When you count on having something smart to say to God, you may be grasping the wrong hand. You are trusting in just yourself and what you can say.

Has Jesus signalled you recently that He wants you to be aware of Him as the Speaker-too? If we must give special emphasis to the what-is-said, then ask what He is telling you by His Humanity, what He did and said and felt during His life on earth.

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On one occasion a little Child appeared to St Teresa. He asked her, "Who are you?" She answered, "Teresa of Jesus." Then she asked him, "And who are you?" He responded, "Jesus of Teresa."

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Jesus wanted Teresa to know He was the God of Teresa. Earlier, He had explained that He was the God of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, the Living God, not bound by time. All were present to Him. He is.

Can He be the Other with YOU, as both God and in His humanity?

Jesus was both God and human at all stages of His earthly life. So, the infant, the teenager, and the grown-up Jesus can be present to us. Anytime. Anywhere.

May the Infant Jesus, this unlimited God of Love, be noticed by you! May He bless you this Christmas! --Fr. Pat, ocd



ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY

BEATIFIED ON NOVEMBER 25, 1984

Elizabeth of the Trinity (Elizabeth Catez) was born near Bourges, France, on July 18th, 1880. In 1901 she entered the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Dijon. Her life of prayer, her practice of the virtues, and her lively faith enabled her "to find her heaven on earth" in the loving presence of the Trinity in her soul with whom she sought ever to remain united in adoration. She wished to be "conformed to Jesus Crucified" in order to become the "Praise of Glory" of the Trinity. She died on November 9th, 1906, after exclaiming, "I go to light, to love, and to life". Pope John Paul II, who reveres her as one of his best teachers in the spiritual life, beatified her on November 25th, 1984, Solemnity of Christ the King.

#### PRAYER

O God, you love men and women so much that you make of them your dwelling-place. We thank you for the gifts you gave to Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, spotless lily of Carmel, whom you taught to savour your ineffable presence in the soul. Through her intercession we ask you to make us shining temples of your Spirit of love for the praise of your glory, and help us in our needs. Amen.

## TRACES OF THE DIVINE BEAUTY IN CREATION

From the *Spiritual Canticle* of St John of the Cross:

Created things in themselves, as St Augustine testifies, give testimony to God's grandeur and excellence. God created all things with remarkable ease and brevity.

In them he left some trace of who he is, not only in giving all things being from nothing, but even endowing them with innumerable graces and qualities, making them beautiful in a wonderful order and unflinching dependence on one another.

All of this he did through his own wisdom, the Word, his only begotten Son by whom he created them.

St Paul says: "The Son of God is the splendor of his glory and the image of his substance."

It should be known that only with this figure, his Son, did God look at all things, that is, he communicated to them their natural being and many natural graces and gifts, and made them complete and perfect, "God looked at all things that he made, and they were very good." (Genesis)

To look and behold that they were very good was to make them very good in the Word, his Son.

Not only by looking at them did he communicate natural being and graces, as we said, but also with this image of his Son alone, he clothed them in beauty by imparting to them supernatural being.

This he did when he became man and elevated human nature in the beauty of God and consequently all creatures, since in human nature he was united with them all.

Accordingly, the Son of God proclaimed: "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will elevate all things to me." And in this elevation of all things through the incarnation of his Son and through the glory of his resurrection according to the flesh, the Father did not merely beautify creatures partially, but rather we can say, clothed them wholly in beauty and dignity.

## WHAT DOES THE RULE AND STATUTES ASK OF YOU IN REGARD TO THE THREE YEAR ELECTIONS?

Read article 23 of the Rule.

Let our USA Statutes speak for themselves:  
Sec VII The Election of the Council..

In the Spring" means April or May. I know some of our OCDS Communities have failed to comply with this Statute in the past. Is there any chance this time could be better? Please do the best you really can.

A partial Council: some otherwise knowledgeable Communities and Groups elect a President and three Councillors. So far, good. Then they elect one of the Councillors to be Formation Director. So far, all in order. But, then, they never get around to "replacing the missing Councillor" to bring the Council back up to 5 people. Maybe this April/May will be closer to what is required.

I understand that newly forming groups may not have a full council. The common sense axiom is to do the best you can to move toward the ideal of the Rule and Statutes.

A bigger problem is a slate of choices in which only one choice for President, etc. is given to the Community. NOW is the time to encourage at least two members to be willing to serve as candidates for each of the various offices. Remember the old saying: "Charity begins at home?" So does the Apostolate part of the Secular Order Member's vocation.

Those who have recently served two terms in a row as President do not qualify for a third term (USA Statutes Sec VII, n. 2, g). However, postulation--asking an exception for a very good reason--may be done for a third term.

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

-- The Philadelphia area Communities welcome OCDS members to a Dec 1-3 Retreat at Dominican Retreat House, Elkins Park, PA. Contact Kathleen Foy, 4017 "I" St, Phila, PA 19124 (#215-533-4017). Retreat offering is \$90 with a \$20 deposit.

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DISCALCED


CARMELITE

SECULAR

ORDER

CALENDAR

# NOVEMBER 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> All Saints <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>  When we pray the "Our Father" we are praying from within the relationship that the Son has to the Father.  Elizabeth of the Trinity	<b>2</b> Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)	<b>3</b> St. Martin de Porres First Friday  The more lofty the degree of loving union to which God destines the soul, so much the more profound and persistent must be its purification. Teresa Benedicta	<b>4</b> St. Charles Borromeo First Saturday
<b>5</b> 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion". Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good.  Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1807	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Election Day Bl Francis Palau y Quer, priest	<b>8</b> Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity	<b>9</b> Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome	<b>10</b> St. Leo the Great  You are consecrated to a life of prayer and union with our Lord and must be watchful lest anything whatever disturb you in this your great work. Mother Aloysius of Concord	<b>11</b> St. Martin of Tours Veterans Day
<b>12</b> 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Catholic National Bible Week	<b>13</b> St. Frances Xavier Cabrini  We must continually work hard so that each of our actions is a way of carrying on little conversations with God, not in any carefully prepared way but as it comes from the purity and simplicity of the heart. Br. L.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> St. Albert the Great All Carmelite Saints  We should not be disturbed, whatever the circumstances in which God places us, but let us allow Him to act, uniting ourselves to His intentions; in this way we will love with pureness of love. St. Teresa Margaret	<b>16</b> St. Margaret of Scotland St. Gertrude the Great	<b>17</b> St. Elizabeth of Hungary  (Maxims of the Saint)	<b>18</b> Dedication of the Basilicas of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome St. Rose Philippine Duchesne B.V.M.
<b>19</b> 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Presentation of the Virgin Mary  Apart altogether from the infusion of sanctifying grace, God is present in every soul. He is in all things he has made, giving them life and maintaining them in existence. But He is in them as a stranger. Elizabeth of the Trinity	<b>22</b> St. Cecilia	<b>23</b> St. Clement I St. Columban Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro Thanksgiving Day  The time will come, Lord, when You will have to make known Your justice and whether it is the equal of Your mercy. Behold, Christians, let us consider it carefully and we shall never finish understanding the splendor of our Lord's mercies... Teresa	<b>24</b> SS. Andrew Dung-Lac & his companions	<b>25</b> B.V.M.
<b>26</b> Christ the King  For perfection as well as its reward does not consist in spiritual delights but in greater love and in deeds done with greater justice and truth.  Interior Castle - III:2 Teresa of Jesus	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  To live hidden in Christ, it is necessary to die to self.  Teresa of the Andies (d46) Testimonies (71)	<b>30</b> St. Andrew		

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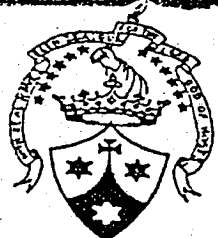
CARMELITE

SECULAR

ORDER

CALENDAR

# DECEMBER 1995



**SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY**

						<b>1</b> First Friday To make the Eucharist part of one's life means to go beyond the limitations of one's own life and to graft oneself onto the immensity of Christ's life. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	<b>2</b> B.V.M. First Saturday To make the Eucharist part of one's life means to go beyond the limitations of one's own life and to graft oneself onto the immensity of Christ's life. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
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<b>3</b> 1st Sunday of Advent Obviously a kiss is the sign of great peace and friendship among two persons. May the Lord help us understand how many kinds of peace there are. Teresa of Jesus Meditations on the Song of Songs	<b>4</b> St. John of Damascus	<b>5</b> Bl. Bartholomew Fanti, priest	<b>6</b> St. Nicholas Eat not forbidden pastures (those of this life), because <i>blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied</i> [Mt. 5:6]. What God seeks, he being himself, God by nature, is to make us gods through participation, just as fire converts all things into fire. Sayings of Light and Love - 107	<b>7</b> St. Ambrose John of the Cross	<b>8</b> Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation	<b>9</b> Blessed Juan Diego (Cuatlatlaoztin)
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<b>10</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent So, Sisters we don't know what we are asking for. Let us leave it to the Lord. [For HE knows us better than we do ourselves. And true humility is content with what is received.] There are some persons who demand favors from God as though these were due them in justice. That's a nice kind of humility! Thus, HE who knows all very seldom grants such persons favors, and rightly so. He sees clearly that they are not ready to drink from the chalice. Way of Perfection 18:6 Teresa of Jesus	<b>11</b> St. Damasus I	<b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe	<b>13</b> St. Lucy	<b>14</b> St. John of the Cross	<b>15</b> You unbeliever, O you who do not dare draw near to Him, make the test and prove how good and generous is our most loving God! (Canonical Process: Words of the Saint) Teresa Margaret Redl of the Andies	<b>16</b> Bl. Mary of the Angels, virgin
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<b>17</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent I beg our Lord to teach you more and more how to live with Him in the heaven of your soul, where in the silence of love, He will detach from yourself and show you how to live that deep life where the Carmelite "comes to see nothing but God upon earth." Mother Aloysius of Concord Carmel	<b>18</b> Hanukkah	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> St. Peter Canisius The blessed see the Threeness of God in the unity of nature. They see the Father in his eternal now begetting his Son. They see the Father and the Son breathing forth in mutual love their Gift, the Holy Spirit. They see the Son in the bosom of the Father and his Spirit, the Father in Son and Spirit, and the Spirit in Father and Son. Elizabeth of the Trinity	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> St. John of Kanty
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<b>24</b> 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> Birth of the Lord Christmas Holy Day of Obligation	<b>26</b> St. Stephen	<b>27</b> St. John	<b>28</b> Holy Innocents	<b>29</b> St. Thomas Becket	<b>30</b> And finally, we can give God no greater witness of our fidelity than in renouncing and despising time and again material things to be with our Creator for a single moment. Br. Lawrence
<b>31</b> Holy Family New Year's Eve	To make the Eucharist part of one's life means to go beyond the limitations of one's own life and to graft oneself onto the immensity of Christ's life. He who visits the Lord in His house will not always want to bother Him about himself and his own affairs, but will begin to interest himself in the affairs of the Lord. Mystery of Christmas Teresa Benedicta of the Cross					

DISCALCED


CARMELITE

# January 1996

SECULAR

ORDER

CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> MARY, MOTHER OF GOD IC - VII:4:15 ...what I conclude with is that we shouldn't build castles in the air. The Lord doesn't look so much at the greatness of our works as at the love with which they are done. And if we do what we can, His Majesty will enable us each day to do more and more, provided that we do not quickly tire. St. Teresa	<b>2</b> SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	<b>3</b> Bl. Kurkiakos Elias Chavara	<b>4</b> Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	<b>5</b> John Neumann	<b>6</b> Bl. Andre Bessette First Saturday
<b>7</b> Epiphany To make room for God in one's own soul means to undertake a struggle without quarter against one's own nature, to take up one's own cross and to abandon oneself to crucifixion. Benedicta of the Cross (Science of the Cross)	<b>8</b> St. Peter Thomas, O Carm	<b>9</b> St. Andrew Corsini, O Carm	<b>10</b> God communicates himself more to the soul advanced in love, that is, more conformed to His will. A person who has reached complete conformity and likeness of will has attained total supernatural union and transformation in God. St. John of the Cross	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> St. Hilary Ascent II-5:4
<b>14</b> Baptism of the Lord Love our Blessed Mother and give her the greatest proof of love by imitating her in the virtues that make her so pleasing to the Blessed Trinity. Mother Aloysius of Concord	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> The soul who places her hope in God has nothing to fear, because He will overcome all her obstacles and all her difficulties. (c 48) Teresa of the Andes	<b>17</b> St. Anthony	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Whatever the future holds, your part is peaceful abandonment -- there is no greater gift to God. It makes one a living Amen to His least good pleasure. Mother Aloysius - Concord Carmel	<b>20</b> St. Fabian St. Sebastian
<b>21</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time The holiest, most common, most necessary practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God, that is to take delight in and become accustomed to His divine company, speaking humbly and talking lovingly with Him at all times, at every moment, without rule or system and especially in times of temptation, suffering, spiritual aridity, disgust and even unfaithfulness and sin. Br. Lawrence	<b>22</b> St. Vincent	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> St. Francis de Sales	<b>25</b> Conversion of St. Paul My God, whom else do I desire if not You on this earth and in heaven? You alone are and will always be the sole Lord of my heart and my will. You alone are my portion, my wealth in time and eternity. St. Teresa Margaret (Affections)	<b>26</b> SS Timothy & Titus	<b>27</b> St. Angela Merici
<b>28</b> Third Sunday in Ordinary Time In our soul the Father and Son exchange their mutual love and their love is the Holy Spirit. We ourselves are associated with this marvellous interchange of knowledge and love and so are introduced into the inner life of God. Elizabeth of the Trinity	<b>29</b> Bl. Arch-Angela Giralani	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> St. John Bosco			

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## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS RESOURCE?

EMMAUS CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS CO.,  
6001 Burnet Rd, Austin, Texas 78757  
(#1-800-458-2440) offers a catalog  
for OCDS members

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## ABOUT 1996 DUES/CLARION

My goal for the Clarion is to make it easy reading, to offer practical Teresian spirituality, and to share information about resources and retreat opportunities.

For the last eight years \$15.00 annually has been asked of members and those in formation who are part of a Community or group in the Eastern Region USA. Last year I asked the Isolated Members to give \$20.00 because of additional postage expenses. Meantime the bulk mail cost has more than doubled as well as other costs.

I hate to have to ask more. But, in order to afford to serve you, I am asking \$20.00 for 1996 dues/Clarion. If your group has already budgeted or collected the \$15 for 1996, include the increase, if possible. If someone can afford to offer more, it would be appreciated.

I plan to send the Clarion to all members and those in formation who are part of our Eastern jurisdiction--whether you are members of a Community/Group or Isolated. This will be true whether you are late or unable to send in your \$20. I know some are on frugal fixed incomes. I ask all to do only what you can. And I thank you for whatever you can do.

If you (e.g. Canadians) must get your Clarion in an envelope plus additional postage, I ask the same from you as members of the Eastern Region USA (US\$20). Members of the Central or Western Regions USA who would like to receive the *CLarion* should contribute at least \$10 to defray expenses.

Isolated Members were already asked in 1995 to contribute \$20. If you can contribute more in 1996, please do.

To send two to represent us at the International Congress in Rome in Oct, 1996 will cost \$2000 each. Hopefully, the increase in dues/Clarion will soften that blow.

NEVER LET YOURSELF BE DEPRESSED BY THE THOUGHT OF YOUR OWN WRETCHEDNESS; BY FORGETTING AND CASTING ONESELF INTO THE ARMS OF GOD, ONE GLORIFIES GOD MORE THAN BY ANY SELF-EXAMINATION AND SELF-REPROACH. (BL ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY)

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## MORE QUESTIONS ON ST TERESA'S WAY OF PERFECTION:

CH 12:

n2:B) Since St Teresa distinguishes between the short martyrdom (where you give up your life for the Faith) and the long martyrdom (where you give yourself to live the Faith), in what ways have you seen LIVING MARTYRS giving their lives in the service of Christ? Or, in His name in the service of others? And, who would these others be?

C) If you really ever thought of today as possibly your last, would you act differently? What would you NOT skip? And, what would you skip?

n3:

D) Since one of St. Teresa's favorite scenes of Jesus' life was His praying in the garden of Gethsemani to His Father: "Not my will but yours be done," shouldn't we distinguish between what is our "druther" or preference or "our own will" and what we see as what God is expecting of us?

E) What are some of the things you would rather do and have, if you really were to do your own will in everything, rather than what you see as His Will to be "done on earth as it is in heaven?"

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Detachment, if practised perfectly, includes the other two necessary virtues, namely love of others and true humility. (St Teresa of Jesus)

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n4:

F) Why do you think St Teresa invokes the Passion? How is it connected with the above self-righteous or hurt, jealous feelings?

G) What remarks could you add to Teresa's list of self-pitying thoughts?

WAY OF PERFECTION QUESTIONS(cont.)

n5:

G) How could you in your position, with what YOU happen to have at present. . . entertain a vain esteem?

H) Do you think you are better than someone else because of something you possess or have done? Could a car accident instantly remove your "greatness" by rendering you suddenly unlearned, unable to use or enjoy whatever is so currently important?

I) What are today's esteemed vanities?

n6:

J) How have you served the Lord? What have been the good actions of your compliance with duties and the help of others?

K) How do the above compare with what you omitted, times when you skipped the good, the lowly or menial task, etc.?

n7:

L) What menial or greatly short of glorious tasks are real possibilities for you?

n8:

M) Has anyone recently helped you to feel sorry for yourself, telling you what a hero you are to bear some trial or other?

CH 13:

n1:

A) What do you say to yourself? Is it conducive to a joy-filled, peaceful bearing of life's adversities, or is it a self-destructive remark that must not be mistaken for true humility?

n2:

B) What have seemed to you to be "reasonable crosses?" Or, are all the crosses that YOU have to carry unreasonable ones?

C) Was the cross of Jesus "reasonable" or warranted?

n3:

D) How did Mary practise humility? Was her humility simply seeing herself as gifted rather than self-made? Or do you see any other element present in her words and actions that you might imitate?

n4:

E) What good attitudes could you take in relation to your family and/or secular group that would be truly good example? What behavior, way of speaking, or attitudes do you think need to be discouraged in the circumstances around you?

n6:

F) What are, realistically, your opportunities for mini-hermit times? And, what makes an eremitical life (even a very brief stab at one) praiseworthy--that is, what about it is especially pleasing to God, rather than ourselves?

CH 14:

n1:

A) In what you involve yourself, spiritually speaking, do you place too much importance on security in spiritual matters? Or, what amount of abandonment to God's will or plan is required of you?

OCDS NEWSLETTER

Eastern Regional Office

THE COMMON

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