



CARMEL CONNECT

Newsletter of the OCDS Main Office



WASHINGTON PROVINCE
SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES

ocdswashprov.org

OCDS Main Office, 166 Foster St., Brighton, MA 02135 / 617-851-8584 / ocdsmainoffice@gmail.com

Message from the Provincial Delegate.....



Fr. Leonard Copeland, O.C.D.
Provincial Delegate

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel:

May the Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

We can truly say that we are living in incredibly challenging and scary times. We have been dealing with the Corona virus for nine months with the hope that it was going to get better. However, for the last few weeks, rather than improving, the Corona virus seems to be peaking with higher numbers. Both the civil and church authorities have mandated various regulations regarding our safety during this pandemic that we are called upon to observe for our safety and those around us.

The consequences of these regulations have caused us, as Carmelites, to adjust our community meetings regarding in-person attendance. I am asking every community to adhere most strictly to these mandates for the safety of our members. Some time ago, our past Provincial, Fr. Jude Peters, and my predecessor, Fr. Sal Sciurba, had stated that in-person meetings should not be held if the mandates cannot be effectively implemented or adhered to by the civil and church authorities. If a community should decide to have in-person meetings, being able to fulfill all the required mandates, we are reminded that no one should be penalized or marked absent if they choose not to attend a meeting, even if the majority of the community choose to do so in-person. The decision of the individual must be respected with no adverse consequences. No Visitors should be allowed at this time, either, since one of the main objectives of the Visitor program is for an individual to have the opportunity to be able to observe how the community functions under normal circumstances and also for the community to observe the Visitor in person. This is a very important part of the discernment process on the part of both parties and cannot be accomplished virtually or on a conference call.

At a time like this, these words of Jesus come to mind: "What you do for the least of my Brothers and Sisters, you do for me." Let us always see the face of Christ in one another for He is always there! Even when people think, or act, differently than we do.

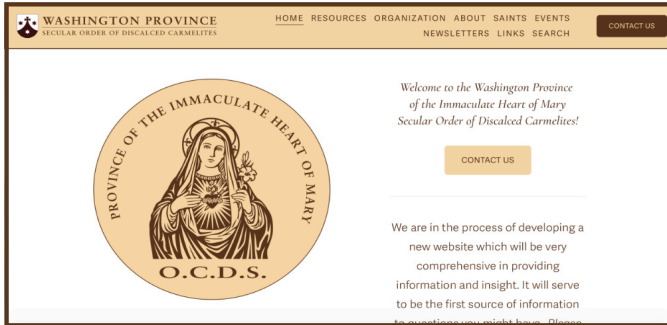
Let us keep each other in our hearts with prayers and wishes for God's Blessing and good health.

May Mary, Our Mother of Carmel, intercede for us to fulfill our needs in this time of trial.

In the name of Jesus our Savior and Lord, I bid of you from my heart ... SHALOM!

Your Brother in Carmel,

New Website - ocdswashprov.org



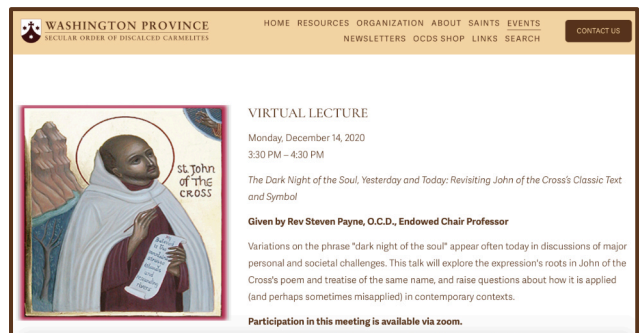
Screen shot of new website Home Page

On November 6th, the Provincial website was compromised and all the contents were lost. We are still not sure what happened, but – as Divine Providence would have it – the Main Office had already signed a contract for a new website. Mary Stewart (President of the St. Teresa of the Andes Community of Danvers, MA) is a professional Webmaster and had already begun work on the new site. When informed of the need for an immediate replacement, Mary worked around the clock and, within 48 hours, had something to post on the Internet. The website is still in development and all the forms

are now undergoing revision (including the change of address for the Main Office). We are asking for your patience as this takes place. The objective is to eventually provide you with “fillable” online forms such that you can simply type in the information, save to your computer and then submit electronically to the Main Office; thus saving time, effort, money and paper. (Of course, you will still be able to print out the form, fill it in manually and mail to the Main Office, too.)

Other features (present and future) for the website include:

- Ability to order and pay for the Book of Documents (BOD), Promise Folders, Vocation Brochures, etc. online with a credit card
- Personal contact information (names, phone numbers, email addresses) for the 147 OCDS communities *will no longer be provided online due to security and privacy issues*. Anyone interested in contacting an OCDS community will be instructed to contact the Main Office, which will then contact the community president and provide the inquirer’s contact information. It will then be up to each community to reach out to inquirers; it is highly recommended that communities set up a separate “corporate/public” email address for such purposes instead of using personal email addresses. (i.e., Hampton, VA wisely chose ocdshamptonva20@yahoo.com as their public email address.)
- Listing of all communities in the Province, including *the new community ID Codes*, with live links to the 30 communities (approximately 20% of all communities) that have an online presence of any kind (websites, Facebook accounts, etc.) Obviously, communities with websites can be contacted directly by an interested individual, thus bypassing the need to have to contact the Main Office.
- Password-protected section(s) for posting of information *exclusively for the OCDS of our Province*
- Archive of all past Clarion issues online, *with an index*, so that people can look up articles for use
- Archive of all Main Office and Provincial Council newsletters
- Spanish translations available for OCDS legislation/documents (already posted)
- Link to LIVE WEBCAM of Stella Maris Monastery atop Mt.Carmel in the Holy Land (already available on website -- check it out!)
- Link to all Carmelcast podcasts, current and past, available for viewing online (already available on website)
- Addition of a website “Search” tool (already posted)



Screen shot showing upcoming Events - one of many website resources

And we are *always open* to new suggestions to help make YOUR Provincial website more user-friendly and helpful to you, so please send your ideas to the Main Office. We are taking as our motto Walt Disney’s famous quote: “If you can dream it, you can do it!” [Assuming it doesn’t cost too much – ha! ha!]

Main Office Moves to

Brighton, MA

October and November were extremely busy months due to the physical move of the Main Office from Washington, DC to Brighton, MA. Fr. Leonard and Loretta Gallagher (new OCDS Main Office Administrator) began the transition process with a week's visit to the Main Office in DC in October, followed by the actual physical move of the Office items in early November. Loretta's husband, Brian, volunteered his time and labor to singlehandedly pack up and drive the rented U-Haul truck from the DC monastery to the Brighton monastery.



Monastery of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph, Brighton, MA



Unpacking the truck (left to right) Br. Emmanuel, Fr. Leonard, Br. John-Mary and Brian Gallagher

Once in Brighton, Fr. Leonard, Br. John-Mary and Br. Emmanuel were on hand to help unpack the truck and store the contents (temporarily) in the monastery Conference Room. There is still a *lot* of work to be done in assembling the new Office, but we are working diligently to establish the OCDS Main Office presence in Brighton while attending to a myriad of other necessary tasks including finances, communication, computers, files, etc. We *truly appreciate* your patience and are counting on your prayers as we labor for *YOU*, the OCDS of the Province.

How Did Our “Washington Province” Get Its Name?

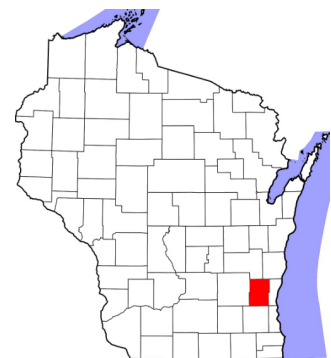
It seems to be a common misperception that our Province is named for the city of Washington, DC (where the OCDS Main Office resided for many years). In actuality, the term “Washington Province” refers to the county in which Hubertus, Wisconsin is located: Washington County.



Monastery of Mary Help of Christians, Holy Hill, Hubertus, Wisconsin

Hubertus is the site of the first permanent community of Discalced Carmelite friars, who came from Bavaria in 1906 and settled there to staff the National Shrine of

Mary, Help of Christians. Today the shrine is a minor basilica, with the monastery grounds affectionately known as “Holy Hill.” Now you know!



Map of Wisconsin highlighting Washington County

Please Notice This



Important Information from the Main Office

Update on Rosters, Provincial Dues and Clarion

Rosters: Rosters will be sent electronically to all Community Contacts (two individuals per community: by default the President and Formation Director) in December, to be filled in and sent *in hard copy format* (printed) to the Main Office by January 31st, along with community payment for Provincial Dues. Instructions for the new Roster will also be included in the mailing.

Annual Provincial Dues: ONE CHECK from each community, payable to WPDCSO, for the 2021 Provincial Dues (\$45 per every Clothed member, same as last year), to be sent *with the paper Roster* to the Main Office by January 31st.

Clarion: There are currently no subscriptions being offered for the Clarion, therefore, no fees.

New ID Codes for Communities

We are instituting a new *PERMANENT* identification system for communities: a very simple "ID Code." This Code will follow a community *in perpetuity*, no matter where - or how many times - a community may relocate in the future. Statute 58 states: "The city and town of their meeting location identify secular communities." It is *extremely difficult* to keep track of a community by using the "formerly known as ..." system if the community has changed meeting locations several times! This way (as with your Social Security Number) each community will be easily identified *permanently*.

You can view your community's ID Code on the dropdown entitled, "Communities" (under "Organization") on the new website. In time you will memorize it and, if you forget, it can always be found on the website!

Carmel Clarion Communications

At the current time we are able to offer only CD's that are in our current inventory. Please contact the Main Office if you are interested in any of the titles currently offered on the carmelclarion.com website to see if they are available. If you would like to purchase the Carmelite Digital Library (CDL), please contact the Main Office. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Use of Main Office Email Addresses



Difference Between the Two Main Office Email Addresses

The Main Office has TWO email accounts and for a very good reason:

- The ocdsmainoffice@gmail.com account is used for inquiries, requests and correspondence of any kind.
- The ocdswashmembers@gmail.com is used strictly to submit Forms and Rosters (basically, to collect data of any kind). Most OCDS Forms (at the very bottom) instruct people to use this address when submitting the Form to the Main Office.

It would be *very helpful* and *much appreciated* if you would kindly use the correct email address when contacting the Main Office.

Main Office Email Issues

Recently our Provincial, Fr. Michael Berry, wisely used the Main Office as a quick and efficient communications vehicle to ask for prayer for our Carmelite friars in Rome afflicted with COVID. Many OCDS simply hit "reply" and sent assurances of prayer to the Main Office, but addressed to "Dear Fr. Michael." We wish we could forward all your emails to the intended recipient(s), but we cannot. If you wish to write Fr. Michael (or anyone else) directly, please use the recipient's email address. For addresses for friars, please see "Contact Information for Friars" under the "Organization" tab on the Provincial website. **Please do not use the Main Office email address (ocdsmainoffice@gmail.com) as a vehicle to send emails to anyone else other than Fr. Len or Loretta**, as we are the only two on this account. Also, remember that Fr. Leonard has his own email address, ocdspdelegate1bri@aol.com, that you are free to use to get in touch with him directly.



Articles by Loretta L. Gallagher, OCDS

OCDS Logos designed by Mary K. Stewart, OCDS

Newsletter graphic design by Ann T. Bouchard, OCDS

Monastery photos from: ocdfriarsvocation.org/our-communities

