



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

As we stand at the threshold of the high season of Lent, in preparation for the great Feast of Easter, we are conscious that this year, being the Year of Faith, we are challenged to strive to live this moment of grace in a very intense and particular way. No doubt each one of us has his/her particular way in which we are being challenged, and the more we open ourselves to live in the present, the more we are receptive to God's graces, and thus allow the Gospel to flow through us!

It helps to remind ourselves that since the year 1300 the Popes have encouraged the faithful to live and stay focused on certain years with a particular topic or theme. Thus for example, in the last five decades one recalls the Year of faith (1967-68) on the nineteenth centenary of the martyrdom of St Peter; The Marian Year (1987-88) the Year of the Rosary (2002-03); the Year of the Eucharist (2004-05); the Pauline Year (2008-09), and The Year of the Priests (2009-10). It can rightly be said that the aim of the Popes was to invite and entice the Universal Church to reflect more deeply on a particular aspect of the Mission and Life of the Faithful ... the Laity ... The People of God.

This year, 2012-13, is no exception.... we are encouraged to put into action our faith and to evangelize in a particular way: The New Evangelization (an Evangelization which is tangible, simple, and challenging). In analyzing the Document, Motu Proprio: Porta Fidei, we come to the conclusion that Four are the aims that Pope Benedict XVI places in front of us:

1. “ to give a fresh impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead human beings out of the wilderness in which they often find themselves to the place of life, friendship with Christ that gives us life in fullness.”
(*Homily of Pope Benedict XVI on the 16th of October*).
2. To live an experience of grace and a commitment for a profound conversion towards God.
3. To lead the Laity to strengthen their faith in God.
4. To proclaim God and the Good News with JOY to contemporary humanity.

These four points come out clear from the Document itself. They set before us an opportunity where of we can live our Faith on a profound and intense level.

This coming April, almost all the ocds in our jurisdiction will be having their elections, and for sure this Year of Faith comes in front of us, asking us how we are going to manifest this Faith through our service for each other.

Once more each one is encourage to read again Romans, Chapter 12, and to allow God's Word to become flesh in us through service and Charity. You are encouraged to read the few words which Our Fr Provincial Fr Manny wrote for the occasion which are found in this issue.

As I continue to plough through Canada, especially British Columbia evangelizing, I rely on your prayers for fruitful Missions.

The Novices in Malta are doing well. Your prayers for them are appreciated and needed as both Brother Darryl and Brother Elijah continue their period of discernment and formation.

The Canonical Establishment of EIGHT of our OCDS Communities is for sure a moment of Grace and Blessing for all of us. More details may be found in the News Items.

The article in this issue on the Interior Castle is of great interest, and greatly appreciated. Take the time to read it in preparation for this year's study. It is well done and very helpful.

May this Easter FIND US ready to enter into the Feast of Joy, The Feast of our FREEDOM.

Have a joyous and peaceful EASTER. May Our Cloistered Sisters with their prayers offer us an opportunity to rejoice with them in living in a concrete way this Year of Faith.

Please keep me and all our Projects in your prayers. May God reward and bless abundantly all of you who have supported me personally, and also the Novices, and may your generous donations continue to flow towards the Center. Your generosity and dedication is something to be proud of!!!

Fraternally in Carmel,

Fr Dominic, OCD
Provincial Delegate.

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### **Message to all Communities**

Please note that on pages 13 – 16 of this issue of the Carmel Lights you will find a letter from the Casa Generalizia Carmelitani Scalzi in Rome. Please read the document and discuss the contents as a community. #1 on the second page of the letter, states:

1. The *Community* will study and reflect on these paragraphs between now and May of this year, suggesting any changes or additions which should then be sent to the Provincial Council of the OCDS. Where there is no Provincial Council, please send via e-mail to the address given below.

Once you have reflected on the Section **(III-A) THE COMMUNITY OF SECULAR CARMEL**, please **send any suggestions, as a community** to the Secretariat ([ocds.secretariat.ca@sympatico.ca](mailto:ocds.secretariat.ca@sympatico.ca)) so that all suggestions can be summarized and sent as one document from Canada.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Marguerite Mason, ocds