



The Discalced Carmelite Secular Order (OCDS) Western Canada Province

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Communications N° 102 15-05-2008 Decisions of the General Definitory

At the May meeting of the Definitory it was decided to place the civil Province of Quebec (Canada), francophone Switzerland and Senegal in Africa under the administration of the Avignon-Aquitain Province, France (Prot. N° 70/2008 DF). At the same time the Definitory agreed to concede the Canadian civil provinces of British-Colombia and Alberta to the Carmelite Province of Karnataka-Goa (India). In the decree (Prot. N° 70/2008DF) it was declared that the convents of our Carmelite Nuns and the Secular Carmelite properties will be under the jurisdiction of this same Indian Province.

Greetings from the Carmelite Fathers!

16th April, 2008

The X Provincial chapter which is in session, today elected **Rev. Father Archibald Gonsalves, OCD** as the **new Provincial of the Karnataka-Goa Province of Discalced Carmelites** for the next triennium.

Fr. Archibald was the Rector of Pushpashrama, our College of Philosophy at Mysore, for the last three years.

I humbly request your prayers for him and the Chapter Fathers, so that we may all discern the will of God.

Yours respectfully,
Fr. Ronald D'Souza, OCD
Chapter Secretary

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V. Rev. Fr. Archibald Gonsalves, was elected the 7th Provincial of the Karnataka-Goa Province of the Discalced Carmelites during the X Provincial Chapter on 16th April, 2008. Fr. Archibald was born in Madanthyar (Diocese of Mangalore) on 9th July, 1961. He joined the Carmelite Order after his PUC, in the year 1979. After his seminary studies at St. Joseph's Inter-diocesan Seminary he was ordained a priest on 5th June, 1989. He obtained his Masters in Philosophy and Masters in English Literature from the Karnataka University. After successfully completing his term of office as the 'Dean' of Pushpashrama, our Institute of Philosophy, Mysore, he pursued his higher studies in Moral Theology in Rome. Besides a Master's Degree in Bioethics from the Gemelli Institute, he has a Licentiate and a Doctorate in moral Theology from the Alfonsian Academy, Rome. He also served as the president of the "Indian Priests' union" there. After returning back to India, he has been engaged in teaching Bio-Ethics and Moral Theology in various seminaries and institutes. He was elected First Provincial Councilor in the Provincial Chapter 2002 and also appointed as the Director of Dhyanavana, Institute of Spirituality at Mysore. For the last three years, he was the Rector of Pushpashrama, College of Philosophy in Mysore.



On 31st May, 2008 the Provincial Council of Karnataka-Goa appointed Rev. Fr. Jerry D'Souza OCD as Provincial Delegate of the OCDS for the Region of British Columbia and Alberta. The appointment was effective on 1st June 2008
Date of Ordination: April 16, 1998
Fr. D'Souza is the Administrator of the Guardian Angels Parish, Vancouver and Spiritual Director to the Catholic Women's League.

THE DISCALCED CARMELITE ORDER KARNATAKA-GOIA PROVINCE

The Discalced Carmelites who maintain this site, were canonically set up as a distinct province of the Order in 1981, on March 12. Flashing back on the most important events that led to this unforgettable date, we recall Msgr. Aloysius Benziger, Swiss-born Carmelite of the Belgian province, thanks to whose untiring zeal and unflagging efforts, the Teresian Carmel opened its doors to the sons of India at the beginning of the twentieth century. Carmelite missionaries had been working in India since the seventeenth century. There had been even a novitiate and a theology-house in Goa, from where the Discalced proto-martyrs, Blessed Dionysius of the Nativity and Redemptus of the Cross had left for their martyrdom in Sumatra in 1638. But that foundation had not been intended for Indians.



Bishop Benziger conceived the idea of re-founding a Carmelite community in Goa during the third centenary of their martyrdom in 1938. With this in mind, accompanied by Fr. Mary Joseph, the old bishop, after retiring from the see of Quilon, personally visited Goa that year and paved the way for the new foundation in Margao, which was soon realized. The next foundation undertaken by the Flemish province in the Konkan region, was in Mangalore in 1947 around the time of Indian independence. After independence, the activity of foreigners was curtailed and their movements, restricted.

As Indian vocations multiplied, more and more foundations were made, and grouped into "provinces". The Carmelite Tertiaries of Manjummel, founded in the latter half of the nineteenth century, applied for integration into the "first" Order and were granted this in 1957, at a moment when the Mangalore

foundation could easily be absorbed into the new unit. But, since Goa continued under the Portuguese till 1961, the Margao monastery remained by itself till in 1964, that community, too, became part of the Manjummel province. The following year - 1965 - saw a new foundation in Mysore.

The process of raising the Karnataka-Goa region into an autonomous Province was initiated in 1978, and the unit was first constituted into a General Delegation in 1979.

The Superior General of the Order, Rev. Fr. Philip Sainz de Baranda, then on a pastoral visitation of the Order in India, established the Karnataka-Goa Province on 12th March, 1981.

Karnataka- Goa Discalced Carmelite Province

Bangalore, Sabdhavana, India

For more information on the Karnataka-Goa Province, visit the website at www.carmelifekgprovince.in

DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



Rev. Fr. John Pinto OCD

Superior

Date of Ordination: April 29, 1986

Fr. Pinto is the Assistant Pastor of St. John the Apostle Church, Vancouver, Chaplain to the Vancouver College and for Courage Vancouver



Rev. Fr. Mario Fernandes OCD

Date of Ordination: May 9, 2000

Fr. Fernandes is the Chaplain of St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver

Dear Carmelite Family,

For my first message in this historic and inaugural edition of our Flos Carmeli newsletter, there are so many thoughts that come to mind. My dearest wish is to inspire you; to share my experiences with you; to impart my knowledge; to warn you of the pitfalls; and to walk a spiritual path with you. I am filled with zeal as I begin to carry out my responsibilities and obligations to the Communities of the Western Canada Province as Provincial Delegate.



This is uncharted ground for me and a new challenge in my priestly ministry. By the power of the Holy Spirit and your prayers, we will be united in the love of our God. Let us enforce the words of our Provincial emblem into our daily lives, "WITH ZEAL HAVE I BEEN ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS".

I will now relate a little of my background and origin. I was born in Madanthyar, a town in Mangalore, India, the youngest of three siblings with an older brother and sister. My father died when I was at the age of three. Life was very difficult for my mother who resides in Nainadu, India. A Carmelite seminarian at the Sacred Heart Junior College, Madanthyar was very instrumental in my vocation to the priesthood. Under their influence, I pursued my studies at the university level before entering the Seminary in Madanthyar. After 12 years of formation, I was ordained into the Order of the Discalced Carmelite on April 16, 1998 following which I earned my Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy MA and Theology Bth. I served as chaplain to the Fatima Chapel in Shellim, Goa and was subsequently assigned as a priest to the Carmel Hill Monastery and in charge of the Shrine of the Infant Jesus in Mangalore. I last served in India as the Superior, Rector and Formator of the Carmelite Minor Seminary in Mapusa, Goa before my assignment to the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

My pastoral experience under the Archdiocese has been enriched in the past 5 years by the opportunities I have been given to serve in the parishes of Coquitlam, Langley, White Rock, Surrey and Vancouver. The multi-cultural cross section of all the people I have met over these years have given me much insight and understanding in the Canadian lifestyle which is a tremendous aid in carrying out my pastoral ministry. I am presently serving at the Guardian Angels Church where our OCD friars had occasion to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller and several other clergy were in attendance to celebrate Holy Mass with us on this joyous feast day. Coadjutor Archbishop Miller blessed the scapulars which were distributed to all in attendance which brings to mind the significance of the brown scapular and a beautiful and meaningful reflection from our previous General of the Order, Fr. Camilo Maccise, on "Sign of Faith and Commitment – The Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel".

"Signs" in ordinary life

The world in which we live is full of material things which have symbolic meaning such as light, fire and water...

There are also everyday life experiences of relationships between human beings which express and symbolize deeper realities, such as sharing a meal (as a sign of friendship), taking part in a protest march (as a sign of solidarity), joining together in a national celebration (as a sign of identity).

We need signs and symbols to help us understand what is happening at present, or what happened before, and to give us an awareness of whom we are as individuals and groups.

"Signs" in the Christian life

Jesus is the great sign and gift of the Father's love. He founded the Church as a sign and instrument of his love. Christian life also has its signs. Jesus used bread, wine and water to help us understand higher things which we can neither see nor touch.

In the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments (baptism, confirmation, reconciliation, matrimony, holy orders, the sacrament of the sick) the symbols (water, oil, the laying on of hands, the rings) all have their own meaning and bring us into communion with God present in each of them.

As well as liturgical signs, the church has others related to some event, to some tradition, or some person. One of these is the brown scapular of our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

The Scapular is a "Sign of Mary"

One of the signs in the tradition of the church from many centuries ago is the brown scapular of our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It is a sign approved by the church and accepted by the Carmelite Order as an external sign of love for Mary, of the trust her children have in her, and of the commitment to live like her.

The word scapular indicates a form of clothing which monks wore when they were working. With passage of time, people began to give symbolic meaning to it: like a cross to be borne everyday as disciples and followers of Christ. In some religious orders, such as the Carmelites, the scapular turned into a sign of their way of life. The scapular came to symbolize the special dedication of Carmelites to Mary, the Mother of God, and to express trust in her motherly protection as well as the desire to be like her in her commitment to Christ and others. Thus it became a sign of Mary.

The value and meaning of the Scapular

The scapular finds its roots in the tradition of the Order, which has seen in it a sign of Mary's motherly protection. It has, therefore, a centuries-old spiritual meaning approved by the Church. It stands for a commitment to follow Jesus like Mary, the perfect model of all the Disciples of Christ. This commitment finds its origin in baptism by which we become children of God.

The Blessed Virgin teaches us:

- ... to be open to God and to his will shown to us in the events of our lives;
- ... to listen to the word of God in the Bible and in life, to believe in it and to put into practice its demands;
- ...to pray at all times as a way of discovering the presence of God in all that is happening around us;
- ... to be involved with people, being attentive to their needs.

It leads us into the community of Carmel, a community of men and women which has existed for over eight centuries. It calls on us to live out the ideal of this religious family: intimate friendship with God.

It reminds us of the example of the saints of Carmel, with whom we establish a close bond as brothers and sisters to one another.

It is an expression of our belief that we will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession of Mary.

In closing I will leave you with a short and profound story of self-sacrifice.

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, "If I could only see the world, I will marry you."

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?" The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: "Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine."

I wish to thank you, the Presidents and members of the OCDS Communities for your support and warm extension of welcome to me as your Provincial Delegate. I have appointed Molly Diaz as the Secretary for the Secretariat, Western Canada Province. In the short time of her appointment, she has taken her responsibility very seriously and her tireless and self-giving work in assisting me is praise worthy. Undoubtedly, there are challenges so your patience, your prayers and continued support are needed. Let us grow together as a loving and caring Carmelite community to serve and love our God.

*Yours in Christ,
Fr. Jerry D'Souza OCD
Provincial Delegate*

Acknowledgements: Very special thanks and appreciation to Sean Hinton for his diligence, great effort and long hours he contributed in creating our Provincial emblem and our website. This inaugural and special edition of our Flos Carmeli Newsletter was generously and anonymously sponsored. May God shower these benefactors and their families with many blessings and graces.

Website

We are pleased to advise that the website address for the Western Canada Province is www.ocdswesterncanada.ca The e-mail address for the Provincial Delegate and the Secretariat is secretariat@ocdswesterncanada.ca Please note that all previous e-mail addresses will no longer be valid. We hope this will facilitate communications within the Western Canada Province. If you have articles or news of interest to the Communities, these will be most welcome and upon approval by the Provincial Delegate, we would be pleased to post them on the website.



Prayer: *O Beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine, splendour of heaven, holy and singular, who brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining a pure virgin, assist us in our necessity! O Star of the Sea, help and protect us! Show us that you are our Mother! Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, pray for us!*

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patron of the Carmelites

This is the patronal feast of the Carmelites. The Order of Carmelites takes its name from Mount Carmel in Israel, which was the first place dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and where a chapel was erected in her honor before her Assumption into heaven.

July 16th is also the feast of the "Scapular of Mount Carmel" On that day in 1251, pious tradition says, the Blessed Virgin appeared to Saint Simon Stock, General of the Carmelites at Cambridge, England, showed him the scapular and promised supernatural favours and her special protection to his Order and to all persons who would wear her scapular.

To obtain the indulgences and other benefits promised to those who wear the Carmelite scapular, a person must be invested by a priest who has the requisite faculties and must lead a consistent Christian life.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - July 16, 2008

This Feast Day of Our Lady was celebrated at the Guardian Angels Church which was filled over capacity with many parishioners of the Archdiocese attending in attestation of their devotion to our Blessed Mother. The congregation joined in saying the Vespers before solemn Mass. Holy Mass was officiated by Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller and concelebrated by Msgr. Mark Hagemoen PH, Fr. William Ashley WR, Fr. Richard Bezzegato cs, Fr. John Pinto OCD and Fr. Jerald D'Souza OCD. The jubilation of all present was apparent by the participation of everyone in the singing led by the choir who started the celebration with the entrance hymn "Flos Carmeli". It was a solemnity befitting our "Queen and Holy Mother". Scapulars were blessed by Coadjutor Archbishop Miller and distributed to all in attendance. Fr. D'Souza thanked Coadjutor Archbishop Miller, fellow priests, the choir and those who generously donated the roses and scapulars.



From left to right:
Fr. Richard Bezzegato cs,
Fr. William Ashley WR,
Msgr. Mark Hagemoen PH,
Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller,
Fr. John Pinto OCD,
Fr. Jerald D'Souza OCD

Right: Coadjutor Archbishop
Michael Miller receiving the
gifts during the Offertory.



Left: Fr. John Pinto OCD giving
Holy Communion.



Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller surrounded by the clergy and well wishers after the Mass.

Right: Carmelite Sisters Sr. Angela, Sr. Maria and Sr. Adriana and friends joined our OCD friars in the celebration.



Left:
A jubilant Fr. Jerald
D'Souza OCD

Helpful Anecdote

- A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no farther.

-Then the man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time.

- Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

-What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. And we could never fly.

Our Lord Jesus thanks the Father for giving a greater enlightened wisdom to the simple than the worldly wise people. That is why simple people are able to dig deep into God's kingdom. Most of the complex type of people does not really enjoy life, and that is a fact. They are too much worried about their wealth, beauty, power and all kind anxieties to keep themselves fit and never really reach to enjoy the simple joys of life.

God has given each one of us the wisdom and strength to be what we are and to make the most of now than later. That is why we read the First Reading from the Book of Zechariah that promised the coming of our King who would arrive in Jerusalem, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. In fulfillment of what had been spoken through the prophet Zechariah, this event took place when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem a few days before His crucifixion. [Mt. 21:5; Jn. 12:15] This event identified Jesus as the One who was to rule as the King of kings in the spiritual Jerusalem [Gal. 4:25-6]. His simplicity and humility should inspire us. He was not at all concerned what people would think and tell.

We hear Jesus say that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. When we live our Christian life as a new creation, enjoying the gifts that we have received we are overwhelmed with gratitude. To explain this, while those of a worldly heart seek to accumulate their treasures, those of a spiritual heart give freely what they own. While the worldly minded hold grudges, those of a spiritual mind forgive. While those of the worldly way avoid Church attendance, the spiritual minded person cherishes the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and continue to enjoy a richer presence of the divine in their daily activities.

So, let us, in all our daily thoughts, words and actions, let us remember to value our ongoing presence before the indwelling Spirit of God. Through Jesus, let us strive to worship the

Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. [Jn. 4:23] May we always remember to place God first in our lives. May we always worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him. [Jn. 4:23] May we always remember to place God first in our lives. May we always remember to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. To succeed in this goal, we must seek to walk hand-in-hand with the indwelling Holy Spirit who is our Guide in all things. By doing these things, Jesus will find rest in our hearts and our souls will find the true and perfect rest in the Heart of Jesus.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." [Mt. 11:25-30]

"Little children live intensely in the present moment, neither in the past nor in the future. As the French writer La Bruyere once put it, 'Children have neither past nor future, but they have something we seldom have—they rejoice in the present.'"

This is the child-like trait which the New Testament would have us imitate. Age quod agis—literally, 'do what you are doing'...The future does not yet exist and the past is gone forever. What we have is the present moment. By it we are fashioning our eternity...."

We are God's Children

One winter day, a little boy was standing on a grate next to a bakery trying to keep his shoeless feet warm. A woman passing by saw the frosty-toed child and her heart ached. He had on only a light-weight jacket and no shoes, and the air was chilly, the wind sharp. "Where are your shoes, young man?" she asked. The boy reluctantly admitted he didn't have any. "Why don't you come with me and we'll see what we can do about that?" the woman said. Taking his hand, she led him into a nearby department store and bought him a new pair of shoes and a warm jacket. When they came back out onto the street, the little boy was so excited that he immediately started to run off to show his family his gifts. Suddenly he halted, turned around and ran back to the woman. He thanked her and then hesitated, "Ma'am, could I ask you a question? Ma'am, are you God's wife?" The woman smiled and said, "Oh, no, I'm not God's wife, just one of God's children."

The little boy grinned and nodded enthusiastically, "I knew it! I just knew you were related!"

"I thank you, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Dr. Rudolf V. D' Souza, OCD, MA. PhD.

Note: Visit the Karnataka-Goa Carmelite Province website for more articles by Dr. Rudolf V. D'Souza OCD.

DISCALCED CARMELITE SECULAR COMMUNITIES WESTERN CANADA PROVINCE

St. Joseph's Community, Calgary, Alberta

Meetings: Fourth Sunday of the month

Place: St. Anthony's Church

5340 – 4th Street SW

Calgary, Alberta T2V 0Z5

Time: 12:00 p.m.

President: Mara Neely

Tel: 403-686-6502

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. John Petrivicius

St. Anthony's Church

St. Teresa of Jesus, of the Andes, Vernon, B.C.

Meetings: Fourth Sunday of the month

Place: Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Church

10102 Middletown Drive

Coldstream, B.C.

Time: 1:30 p.m.

President: Linda Stuchberry

Tel: 250-503-2408

Spiritual Assistant: TBA

St. Teresa of Jesus, Vancouver, B.C.

Meetings: Third Saturday of the month

Place: Guardian Angels Church

1161 Broughton Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6G 2B3

Time: 8:15 a.m.

President: Lourdes Torroba

Tel: 604-241-4052

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Jerry D'Souza

Guardian Angels Church

OCDS EVENTS 2008-2009

Retreat *Community of St. Teresa of Jesus, Vancouver, B.C.
August 8, 9, & 10, 2008 at Westminster Abbey, Mission, B.C.*

Congress *Eastern Canada, Toronto
October 3, 4 & 5, 2008 Day's Hotel, Toronto, ON
Information: Tel 416-223-4770 or e-mail miketes.empress@sympatico.ca*

Retreat *Community of St. Joseph, Calgary
May 23 – 24, 2009 at Mount St. Francis, Cochrane, AB*

**"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you,
all things pass away: God never changes."**

~ St Teresa of Avila ~

LOVE, WEALTH & SUCCESS

A woman came out of her house and saw 3 old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat. "Is the man of the house home?" they asked.

"No", she replied. "He's out."

"Then we cannot come in", they replied.

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened. "Go tell them I am home and invite them in!"

The woman went out and invited the men in. "We do not go into a House together," they replied. "Why is that?" she asked.

One of the old men explained, "His name is Wealth," he said pointing to one of his friends, and pointing to another one, "He is Success, and I am Love." Then he added, "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. "How nice!", he said. "Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!"

His wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success?"

Their daughter was listening from the other corner of the house. She jumped in with her own suggestion, "Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love!"

"Let us heed our daughter's advice," said the husband to his wife.

"Go out and invite Love to be our guest".

The woman went out and asked the 3 old men, "Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest".

Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other 2 also got up and followed him. Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success: "I only invited Love, Why are you coming in?"

The old men replied together, "If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would've stayed out, but since you invited Love, wherever He goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success!!!!!!"