

Flos Carmeli



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



St. Teresa of Avila



St. John of the Cross



St. Joseph

Western Canada OCDS
of the Karnataka-Goa Province

Newsletter - December 2017

Edition 2017.016

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men.” Luke 2:14**



Oh Holy Night!



**The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDS)
Western Canada OCDS
of the Karnataka-Goa Province**

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ocdswest@gmail.com
December 2017 Edition 2017.16



*Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD
Provincial Delegate*

WELCOME to Fr. Steny Mascarenhas, our newly appointed Provincial Delegate! We look forward to receiving your guidance and spiritual support.

THANK YOU to Fr. Jerald D'Souza, our former Provincial Delegate for his many years of dedication and sharing his wisdom with the OCDS!

THANK YOU FR. RUDOLF V. D'SOUZA!

Fr. Rudolf V. D'Souza arrived in Canada in the year 2009. In a very short time he set to work like a hurricane with gale-force winds and made formidable and historic initiatives in the name of the Discalced Carmelite Order in Canada. Most notable are Little Flower Monastery, Carmel Hill, Deroche BC which was inaugurated on October 15, 2015, the 5th Centenary Birth of St. Teresa; and recently Mt. Carmel Spirituality Centre, Parkland County, AB. All these initiatives have created a strong concrete presence and awareness of the Order in Canada.

Fr. Rudy is a prolific writer, producing book after book and preaching the Gospel through numerous conferences and the media such as his podcast "Living Flame" which never ceases to inspire. As Spiritual Assistant to the Vancouver Community and through OCDS retreats, he has shared his wisdom and given the OCDS members much insight and clarity in understanding and living the charism of Carmel.

Fr. Rudy was the former Regional Superior for Canada but that does not mean he will be sitting back with his arms folded. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by Providence, we know that he has much planned as he continues his mission. Thank you, Fr. Rudy.



*Molly Diaz OCDS
President, Secretariat*



*Leslie Blair, OCDS
Central Director
of Formation*



Discover Christ

As I wish all of you a happy and grace-filled Christmas, I want you to capture the joy in this crowded Season. At this time of the year, doesn't that sound like an impossible dream? Look around us, we are already crowded. Holiday magazines calling us to cook special holiday foods, decorate our tables and our homes; Christmas programs which promise to be the "best one" ever and not to be missed; stores bursting with sales, gifts; Christmas cards and the list goes on. Are you overwhelmed yet? And I haven't even talked about other things that crowd our season. Things like: tension, painful relationships, discord in your family, separation between family members, fear, loss of a job, loss of income, health issues overwhelming you, yours or someone close to you and memories of Christmases past either good or bad. This is a crowded season for all of us. Am I right? Let me ask you a question. I want you to think about the answer. Who or what might potentially "crowd" your Christmas this year? Save that answer, we're going to come back to it. We all are going to have a crowded season. But I believe we also all have an opportunity to capture joy, incredibly wonderful joy, "the good news of great joy".

Luke 2:1-7: Jesus was born into a crowded world. There were so many people that Caesar Augustus wanted to count them. Imagine the traffic on the roads with everyone trying to get "home" for the census. Picture the lines that you would have had to stand in to fill out the forms. When I see pictures of people sleeping in the airports during the holidays, the immense number of travelers, I think of the world that Christ was born in. A world crowded with people.

One night I was tucking my little niece into bed. We had read a story, said our prayers and were about to turn off the light when her mother came in and sat on the end of the bed to say goodnight. Then her brother came in and did the same, followed by her dad and granddad. Her little room and bed got very crowded and she was sleepy. Into the noise of everyone talking she said "There are too many people in my room"! We couldn't help but laugh and left.

When I read the story of Mary and Joseph I'm sure they felt like my niece. There were too many people in Bethlehem too, too many for Mary and Joseph to find a hotel. The inn had too many people; it was too crowded to give them a room. And yet, into this crowded space and time, Jesus comes and is born. His birth brings "great joy for all people." Dear friends, our joy does not come from the absence of a crowded season, but our joy comes in the midst of it. You and I will not be insulated from this crowded, frantic Christmas season. We will live in the middle of it. So the question arises "How do we, surrounded by the season, capture the joy that Christ came to bring?" The Scriptures tell us about the 3 groups of people that show us 3 different ways to capture Christmas Joy.

1. Discover Christ

When Jesus was eight days old, he was taken to the temple to be consecrated to the Lord fulfilling what was required by the Law of Moses. Many Jews at this time were looking for the Messiah to come. Some believed a great ruler would descend on the earth and overthrow all their enemies. But in contrast to them, there were also a few people who were known as "The Quiet in the Land". These Jews had a different view of Messiah. They didn't dream of armies but instead lived a life of quiet prayer and faithful watchfulness until God would reveal His Messiah. This very day that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple, there was a devout elderly man named Simeon who had been told by the Spirit of God that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. Along with Simeon was an elderly widow named Anna. Listen to what happens. (Read: Luke 2:27-32, 36-38)

They discovered what they had been looking for all their lives. When they saw Him they knew this was the Christ, the Anointed One, and the Messiah. Discovering and receiving Christ for yourself is believing that He is who He said He was. This implies that we are saying to God, "I am a sinner. I am not perfect, no matter how good I try to be. I need a Savior. I trust Christ to be my Savior and Lord." That is the Good News, the true Christmas Story.

In the Gospel of Luke we learn how essential it is to see ourselves first as receivers. That's tough; we'd rather see ourselves as capable, self-sufficient, generous, caring givers. But the Gospel, the Good News, is for poor, needy, empty people who open their hands to the free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The question is Have you ever done that? Have you ever trusted Christ? Discovered Him? Joy in this crowded Christmas season, first comes with discovering Christ, personally knowing the One whose birth we celebrate.

As Carmelites, many of you have Discovered Him. Many of you have come to know Him, many of you have received Him as your Savior. But I think our challenge in this crowded season is to remember that no matter how long you have been a Christ follower, Jesus calls us to be "poor in spirit," meaning to be continually dependent on Him; to release the daily control of our lives to Him. The call for those of us who have received Him is to come to Know Him more. (Christmas = Christ-Mas = More Christ) The reason we want to know Him more is to become like Him, to expand our faith, to grow up in Christ. This is the life of the passionate disciple.

2. Treasure Christ

I do believe you can know Him and still fail to capture Joy in our crowded season. That brings us to another story. Along with discovering Christ, there is a call on our lives to treasure Christ. (Read: Matthew 2:1-11)

Soren Kierkegaard makes this interesting observation about the scribes in Jerusalem. They could explain where Messiah should be born but they stayed in Jerusalem. They did not accompany the Wise Men to seek Him. Similarly we may know the whole of Christianity, yet make no movement...what a difference! The three kings had only a rumor to go by but it moved them to make that long journey. The scribes were much better informed, much better versed. They sat and studied the Scriptures, but it did not make them move.

The scribes knew but they did not seek, they knew but they did not adore, they knew but they did not treasure. This could be true of us too. It was the Wise Men who pursued, continued to travel to find this new King. And when they found Him, they worshiped Him; they gave Him gifts; they adored Him; they treasured Him.

I like this word TREASURE especially during this season. Most of us receive gifts at Christmas, among those gifts only a few become treasures to us. I treasure an angel which my Mom gave me the first Christmas. I treasure a small Christmas tree my niece gave me about 10 years ago. I treasure the gold ring my dad gave me. I received many gifts, but few treasures. I'm sure that you have special gifts, large or small, which you treasure as well. However, God's gift of His Son to us is His Treasure to us, given so that we may Discover Him and Treasure Him. You may ask "how do we treasure Christ?" All of us can take the opportunity to offer our worship to Christ. But we also give to Christ our adoration in quiet private times of prayer and reflection. Those times restore our souls and allow us to take deep breaths of JOY in a Crowded Season.

3. Share Christ

Discovering Him and Treasuring Him leads us to Share Christ. (Read: Luke 2:8-20)

The shepherds were the first to hear the news. They hurried. They ran "to see" about "this thing" the angels spoke of. As soon as they saw, they went and shared with others. But if you know Him, and you treasure Him, you have a story to share with others. It's how your own life story has been changed by Christ's birth, His life, death and resurrection. There's an old saying "Share the Gospel every day in all you do, wherever you are. When necessary use words."

Do you remember the question I asked you earlier? "Who or what might 'crowd' your Christmas this year?" Whatever your answer, the Truth is all of us will have a crowded Christmas ahead. But what will you do to capture Joy in the midst? Jesus teaches "we reap what we sow" or I would say "what goes around, comes around". When you choose to Discover Christ, to Treasure Him and to Share His love with others, it doesn't matter how crowded your Christmas becomes, for you will capture the true Joy of the season.

Will you, surrounded by the crowded season, capture the joy that Christ came to bring?

Happy Christmas

Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD

Provincial Delegate for the OCDS

**WELCOME TO NEWLY APPOINTED PROVINCIAL DELEGATE
AND OCDS DEFINITIVE PROFESSION
ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH, NORTH VANCOUVER**

Luz Stella Quintero, a member of the St. John of the Cross OCDS Community of Coquitlam, B.C. made her Definitive Promise on October 21, 2017. The OCDS members of the Lower Mainland were in attendance to witness her profession which took place at St. Edmund's Church during a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Fr. Jerald D'Souza, newly appointed Regional Superior, Canada and concelebrated by Fr. Steny Mascarenhas, newly appointed Provincial Delegate.

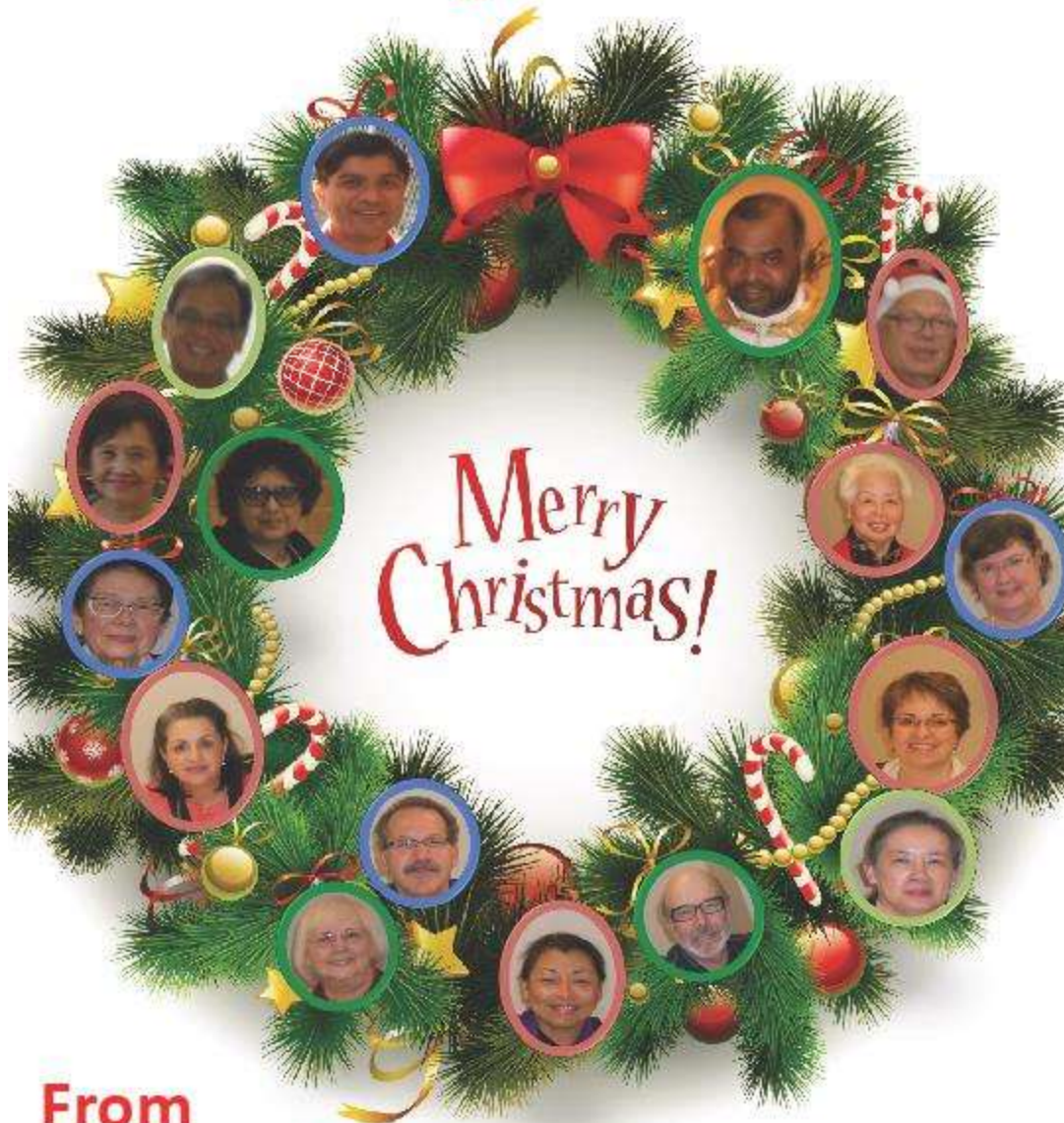
It was an emotional occasion for Luz who was moved as she recited her Promise "to tend toward evangelical perfection in the spirit of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, obedience, and of the Beatitudes..." After the ceremony, everyone rendered their love, support and well wishes.

After Mass, Fr. Jerry seized the opportunity to congratulate Fr. Steny Mascarenhas upon his appointment to his newly appointed office as Provincial Delegate for the OCDS. Fr. Jerry presented him with several books including the OCDS Constitutions and playfully clothed him with a scapular.

The occasion culminated with singing the Salve Regina which reminded us of our dedication, devotion and our filial affection to Mary, a Woman of silence and prayer, Mother of Mercy, Mother of Hope and Grace and Mother of all Carmelites.



Wishing One and All



From
St. John of the Cross OCDS Community



St. Teresa of Jesus Community

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes Community



St. Joseph Community



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Group



Election of Provincial Superior
Karnataka-Goa Province of Discalced Carmelites
April 28, 2017

The 13th Provincial Chapter of the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Karnataka-Goa Province has re-elected Rev. Fr Charles Serrao as Provincial Superior for 2017 – 2020. Fr. Charles has been Provincial Superior since 2014.

The Karnataka-Goa Province comprises the civil states of Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat, with a mission in Tanzania and communities in Italy, South Africa and Canada. The friars also serve in dioceses and other Carmelite Provinces around the world. There are currently 190 friars and 109 students in formation.

Provincial Council



**Rev. Fr. Charles
Serrao**
Provincial



**Rev. Fr. Pius James
D'Souza**
I Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Ronald
D'Souza**
II Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Oswald
Crasta**
III Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Clifford
D'Souza**
IV Councillor



**Rev. Fr. Silvestre
D'Souza**
Provincial Secretary

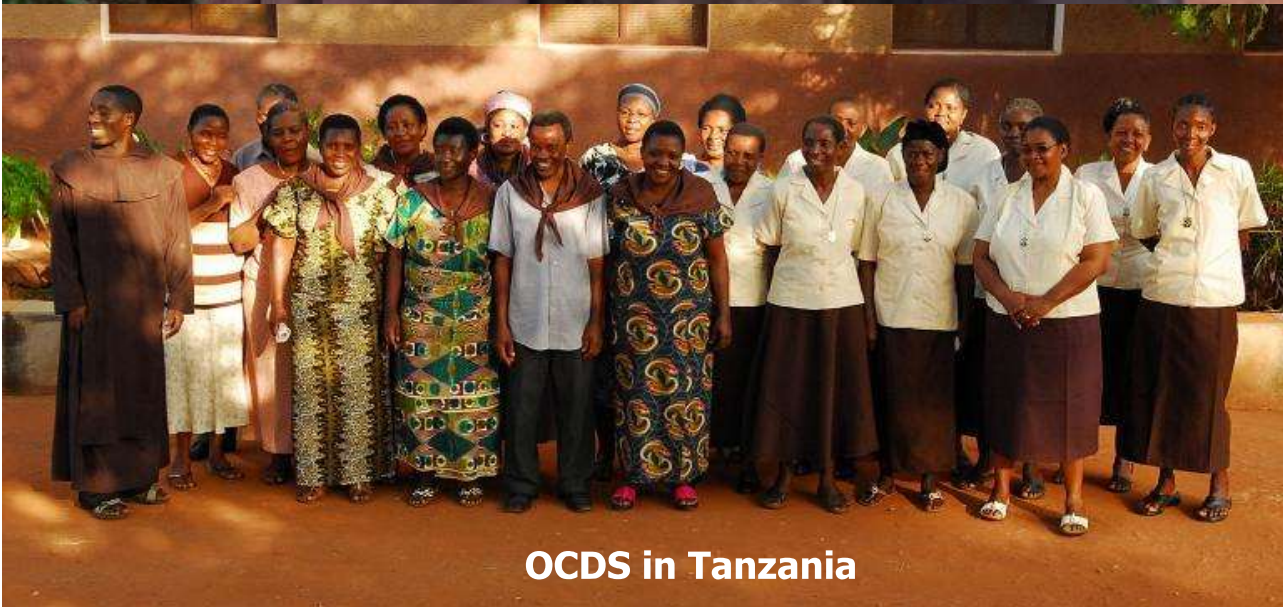
NEW ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM IN TANZANIA!

The Mission Congress in Tanzania was held from August 15-18, 2017. We are very happy to communicate to you the results of the elections held recently:

Regional Vicar: Fr. Sylvester Msemwa of the Holy Spirit
First Councillor: Fr. Vivian Menezes of Jesus Crucified
Second Councillor: Fr. Elius Malale of St. John of the Cross.

We wish the new administrative team all the best and promise our prayers. Our thanks to Fr. Marlon Rodrigues the out-going Regional Vicar who was at the helm for four terms! May the Lord continue to bless him.

www.carmelitemissionstz.org



OCDS in Tanzania

OCDS COMMUNITIES

St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes, Vernon BC

Meetings: Fourth Sunday of the Month
Place: Our Lady of the Valley Church
Coldstream, BC
Time: 1:30 p.m.
President: Angeline McCann OCDS
Tel: 1-250-492-3400
Sp. Assistant: Fr. Peter Nguyen

St. Joseph, Calgary AB

Meetings: Fourth Sunday of the Month
Place: St. Thomas More Church,
Calgary
Time: 1:00 p.m.
President: Carla Jane Romeo OCDS
Tel: 1-403-288-2296
Sp. Assistant: Fr. Godwin Pinto OCD

St. John of the Cross, Coquitlam BC

Meetings: First Saturday of the Month
Place: All Saints Church
Coquitlam
Time: 8:30 a.m.
President: Marilyn Cunada OCDS
Tel: 1-604-931-1555
Sp. Assistant: Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD

St. Teresa of Jesus, Vancouver BC

Meetings: Second Saturday of the Month
Place: Guardian Angels Church
Vancouver
Time: 9:00 a.m.
President: Assunta Tan OCDS
Tel: 1-604-264-7227
Sp. Assistant: Fr. Rajesh Madtha OCD

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, N. Vancouver BC

Meetings: Third Saturday of the Month
Place: St. Edmund's Church, N. Vancouver
Time: 8:15 a.m.
President: Virginia Concon OCDS
Tel: 1-778-861-5446
Sp. Assistant: Fr. Vincent D'Souza OCD

Fr. Steny Mascarenhas, OCD - Provincial Delegate
Molly Diaz OCDS - President, Secretariat
Leslie Blair OCDS - Central Director of Formation
Official Matters to Provincial Delegate & Secretariat

Email: stanyocd@gmail.com
Email: mdocds@hotmail.com
Email: lblairocds@gmail.com
Email: secretariatocdswest@gmail.com

OFFICE OF STATISTICS

Grace Aleong - Maintain membership lists, update member formation status, supply forms scapulars,
Constitution & Ritual Booklets

Email: havenofgrace@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARIAT

Norma Lo - Distribution of emails and correspondence to the membership, administration and special projects under the direction of the President of the Secretariat and the Provincial Delegate.
Email: ocdswest@gmail.com

WEB MASTER

Virginia Concon - Update and maintain OCDS website www.ocdswest.ca under the direction of the President of the Secretariat and the Provincial Delegate. Email: ocdswest@gmail.com

UPCOMING OCDS EVENTS 2018

- Feb 24** **Lenten Day of Recollection, Lower Mainland Communities
Guardian Angels Church, Vancouver**
- TBN** **Lenten Day of Recollection, St. Joseph Community
St. Thomas More, Calgary**
- TBN** **Day of Recollection
St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes Community**
- May 25 - 27** **Annual Retreat, St. Joseph Community, Calgary
Mount St Francis, Cochrane, AB**
- July 6 - 8** **Annual Meeting of the Provincial Delegate, Secretariat &
Community Presidents & Directors of Formation
Little Flower Monastery, Deroche BC**
- July 27 - 29** **Annual Retreat, St. Teresa of Jesus Community
Little Flower Monastery, Deroche BC**
- August 10 - 12** **Annual Retreat, St. John of the Cross Community &
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Group
Little Flower Monastery, Deroche BC**
- September 21 -23** **Annual Retreat & Ceremonies
St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes Community
Seton House, Kelowna BC**
- TBN** **Ceremonies
St. Joseph Community, Calgary, AB**
- TBN** **Ceremonies - Lower Mainland Communities
St. Edmund's Church, North Vancouver BC**

DATES & EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION

MASS REQUESTS

Masses can be requested by emailing Norma Lo at westerncanadaocds@yahoo.ca. The Masses are offered by our OCD Friars at Carmel Hill. Cheques are payable to **Disalced Carmelite Fathers** and mailed to P.O. Box 43011, Richmond Centre P.O., Richmond BC Canada V6Y 3Y3

EVENT PICTURES - FLOS CARMELI & WEBSITE

Submit event pictures with a short description to the Secretariat Office at ocdswest@gmail.com through the respective presidents.

SECRETARIAT MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 43011, Richmond Centre P.O. , Richmond BC Canada V6Y 3Y3

DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS
Canadian Community - Karnataka-Goa Province



Rev. Fr. Charles Serrao OCD
Provincial, Karnataka-Goa Province



Rev. Fr. Jerald D'Souza OCD
Regional Superior
St. Edmund's Parish, North Vancouver BC



Rev. Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD
St. Thomas More Parish, Calgary AB



Rev. Fr. Rudolf D'Souza OCD
Guardian Angels Parish, Vancouver BC



Rev. Fr. Mario Fernandes OCD
Mt. Carmel Spirituality Centre
Parkland County, AB



Rev. Fr. Jerome Mascarenhas OCD
St. Aloysius Parish, Kitchener, ON



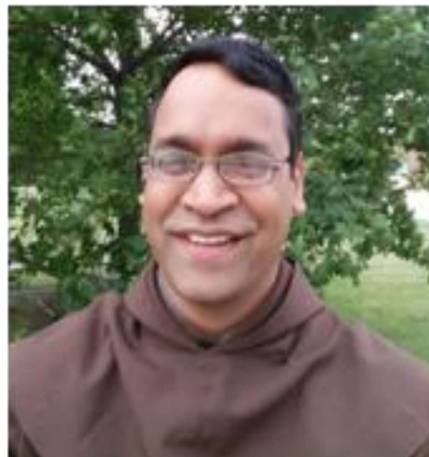
Rev. Fr. Ranjan D'Sa OCD
St. Dominic Parish, Oakville ON



Rev. Fr. Melvin Pinto OCD
Little Flower Monastery, Carmel Hill
Deroche BC



Rev. Fr. Steny Mascarenhas OCD
Provincial Delegate for the OCDS
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Agassiz, BC



Rev. Fr. Victor Angelo Fernandes OCD
St. Mary's and St. Ann's Parishes, Hagersville, ON



Rev. Fr. Vijay Martin OCD
St. Patrick Parish, Caledonia ON



Rev. Fr. Alwyn Sequeira OCD
Mt. Carmel Spirituality Centre
Parkland County, AB



Rev. Fr. Godwin Arun Pinto OCD
St. Thomas More Parish, Calgary AB



Rev. Fr. Rajesh Madtha OCD
Chaplain, St. Paul's hospital, Vancouver BC



Rev. Fr. Jaison Tellis OCD
St. Andrew The Apostle Parish, London ON



Rev. Fr. Roshan D'Souza OCD
St. Aloysius Parish, Kitchener, ON



Bro. Joseph Giroux OCD
Little Flower Monastery, Carmel Hill,
Deroche, BC



Bro. Frank Sharma OCD

THE ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES
Canadian Carmelite Community
www.cccocd.org

Karnataka- Goa Province
Bangalore, Sabdhavana, India
<http://www.carmelbangalore.com/>

WELCOME TO CANADA



FR. ALEXANDER BRAGANZA, one of four siblings, was born in Panjim, a town in Goa, India. He pursued his studies at the university level before entering the Seminary in Xellim in 1987.

After 12 years of formation, he was ordained into the Order of the Discalced Carmelite on April 21, 1998 following which he made his Bachelor of Arts, Sociology MA and Theology BTh. Following his ordination he served as Assistant Pastor at St. Joseph's Parish, Mumbai from 1998 to 2001; at the Retreat Centre, Dhyanashnam, Vasai from 2001 to 2005; as Assistant Pastor at St. Maria A Ripa, Empoli, Florence Italy from 2005 to 2010; at the Retreat Centre, Dhyanashnam, Vasai from 2010 to 2014; and as Rector, Carmelite Seminary, Goa, India from 2014 to 2017. Fr. Alexander arrived to Canada on June 1, 2017 and has taken up his appointment as the Superior of Little Flower Monastery, Carmel Hill.



FR. VINCENT D'SOUZA hails from the little town of Gangolli, Kundapur; a part of Udupi Diocese in Karnataka, South India. He is the fifth son of the late Valerian and Agnes D'Souza. He has four brothers and one sister.

Responding to God's call in 1985, after the tenth grade Father Vincent joined the Discalced Carmelite Order. After four years of seminarian training he made his Simple Religious Profession in 1989. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mysore University and Bachelor of Philosophy in Pushpashrama, Mysore Carmelite Seminary. He pursued his four years of theological studies at St. Joseph's Inter-Diocesan Seminary, Mangalore. He was ordained on April 23,

1997.

After his ordination he was appointed to Tapovana, Kushalnagar. In the year 1999, he was transferred to Holy Family Parish in Londa, Belgaum as Associate Pastor. Meanwhile, he studied through correspondence with Dharwad University and completed his Master of Arts in Sociology. On September 4th 2001 he was further appointed to Bahrain in the Middle East where he remained for nine long years as an Assistant Pastor. In October 2010, he returned to India and was given conventuality in the Community of Carmel Ashram, Katkere. He was then appointed as the first Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Church, Koteswar, Udupi Diocese for about seven years. On July 13th 2017 he arrived at St. Edmund's Church, North Vancouver where the parishioners are delighted to have him as their Assistant Pastor.



BRO. FRANK SHARMA was in residence at Carmel Hill for a short time. He was the cantor at our 2016 retreats and we all undoubtedly recall his beautiful voice matched only by his gentle and jovial disposition.

Bro. Frank is undergoing his novitiate at Mount St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery, San Jose, California, USA. Please remember our novice, Bro. Frank, in your prayers as he responds to God's call to his priestly vocation.

MONASTERIES



Discalced Carmelite Nuns Armstrong, B.C.

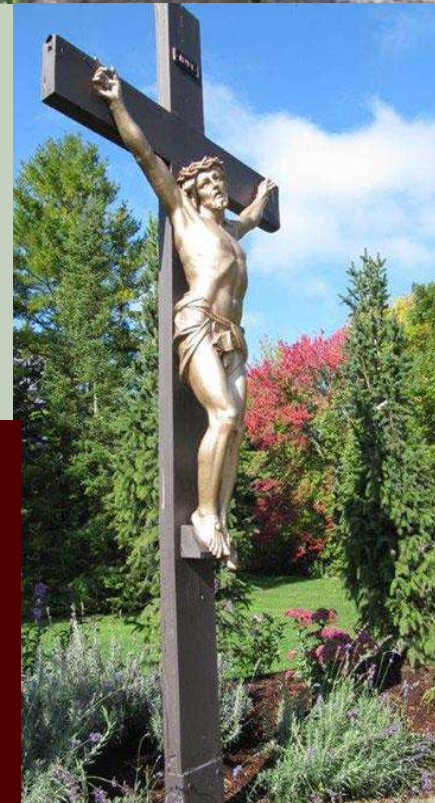
**The Carmel of St. Joseph - 4815 Salmon River Road
Armstrong, BC Canada V0E 1B4 Tel: 1-250-546-8801
Prioress: Mother Ann of Jesus OCD www.carmelspall.org**



The Carmel of St. Joseph
12, 51222 Rge Road 270
Spruce Grove, AB T7Y 1G7
Tel: 780-963-3380
Prioress: Mother Catherine of
Our Lady of Divine Providence OCD

The Carmel of St. Joseph
St. Agatha, Ontario, Canada

1127 Carmel-Koch Road
R.R. 1 St. Agatha, Ontario
N0B 2L0
Phone: 519-884-7563



THE KARNATAKA-GOA PROVINCE REMEMBERS BISHOP BENZIGER:

The Karnataka-Goa Province is full of gratitude to Mons. Aloysius Benziger OCD, the Bishop of Quilon. It was his keen desire to renew Carmelite Presence in Goa and that, during the 3rd centenary of the martyrdom of the Teresian proto-martyrs, Bls. Dionysius and Redemptus (1638-1938). He is said to have obtained due permission from the Patriarch of Goa during the National Eucharistic Congress held a year earlier (29-31 Dec. 1937) at Madras (now Chennai). In spite of his age, he went to Margao, Goa in the company of Fr. Mary Joseph (the first Goan Carmelite Friar) to promote the foundation.

Today (17th of August, 2017), the Malabar Province along with five Dioceses of Kerala (which originally comprised the first and oldest Diocese of Quilon), is marking this event in Trivandrum at our Carmel Hill Monastery Church, where his mortal remains have been interred. There is seminar in the morning, Solemn Eucharist in the afternoon followed by a programme and dance drama. In the absence of the Provincial, Rev. Fr Oswald Crasta (Provincial Councillor) is representing the Karnataka-Goa Province.

Bishop Benziger visited Rachol Seminary where Fr. Paul's father was physician. According to Fr. Mary Joseph OCD, Bishop Benziger blessed Fr. Paul who was around 5 years old. The following verses are composed by him in recognition of the Bishop's eagerness and interest in the first foundation of what became later the Karnataka-Goa Province.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP BENZIGER

Hail Bishop Benziger
Quilon remembers you
Four other dioceses
Offer their tribute too.


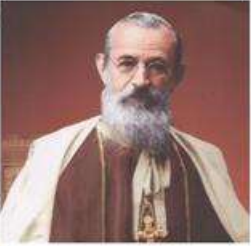
God's Spirit came on you
When you were still a boy
Great riches you renounced
To find in God your joy.

Drawn by the Spirit's grace
You found your home in prayer
And strove that India's children
Carmel's delights should share.

We hail you loving pastor
Great builder of our Church
Unflagging in your zeal,
Of souls to save in search!

O, may this celebration
Re-ignite in our hearts
The love for holy living
That faith in God imparts.

**-By Rev. Fr. Paul D'Souza OCD
(Karnataka-Goa Province)**



LENTEN RECOLLECTION WITH FR. RAJESH MADTHA

Lent offers a perfect opportunity to step back from our everyday activities and assess our spiritual well-being. The Secular Carmelites in the Lower Mainland gathered on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord, Saturday, March 25, 2017 for a Lenten Recollection at St. Edmund's Parish in North Vancouver, B.C. Led by Fr. Rajesh Madtha, Chaplain of St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, they reflected on the theme, "Surely, Lord, You bless the Righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield." (Psalm 5:12).

The day began with praying the Liturgy of the Hours and a Eucharistic Celebration with Fr. Jerald D'Souza, Provincial Delegate and Pastor of St. Edmund's Parish. His homily was a perfect start to the recollection, a reminder to follow Mary's fiat, in spite of her doubts, fears and even confusion. Members shared their breakfast offerings before re-grouping for Fr. Rajesh's talk.

The following summarizes Fr. Rajesh's words. "What are the means of receiving God's grace?" "Grace" from the Hebrew word "chen", meaning mercy, was given many definitions: favor, kindness, graciousness, piety, pleasant, well-being, delightful". When a person receives a gift and is not warranted of receiving it, best defines "grace". "How can we be gifted by the grace of God?" Holiness, is a gift offered to all. It is gifted to us by the Lord Jesus Christ when He takes us up, with Him and clothes us in Himself, making us like Him. Holiness is not something that we can procure for ourselves or obtain with our skills. To become disciples of Jesus, we must become "little Christs".

The recollection was truly uplifting reminding us of God's call to holiness.

The recollection concluded with an hour of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and meditation followed by Benediction.

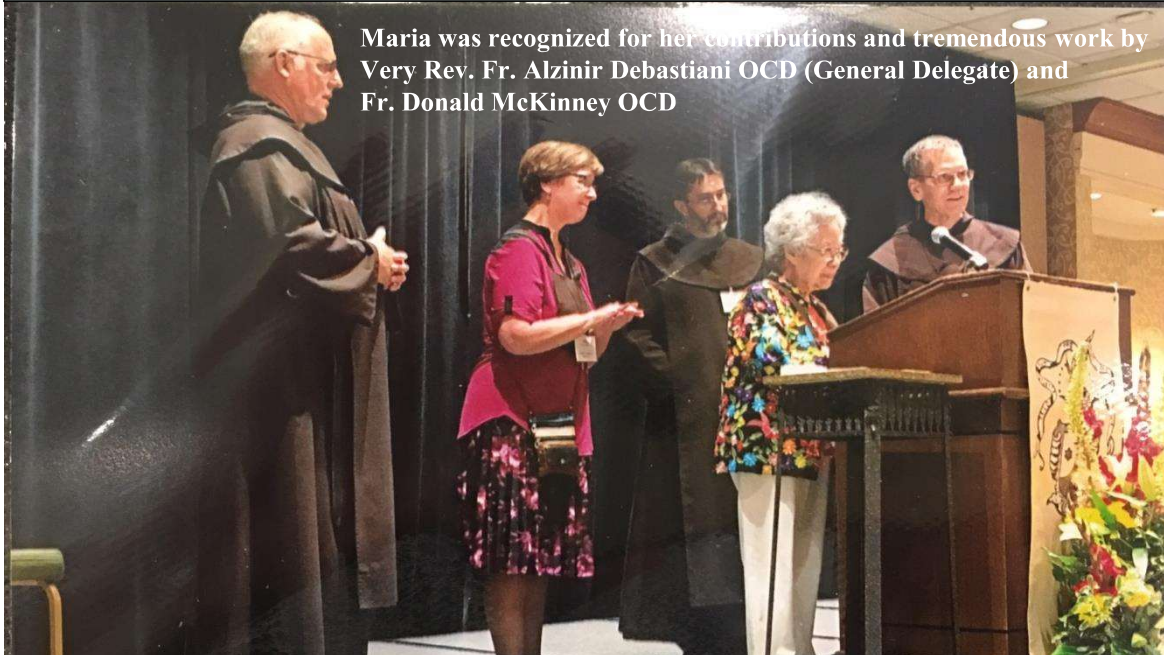


MARIA ORALLO M.D. OCDS

On May 21 2017, a small group of OCDS visited Dr. Maria Orallo OCDS who resides in Seattle WA. Maria was very instrumental in the founding of St. Teresa of Jesus Community which was the first OCDS community in the Lower Mainland.

On Sep 16, 1995 Fr. General Camilo Maccise OCD, granted permission to the Western USA Province to attend to the needs of the OCDS Group in Richmond, British Columbia. It was then that Maria Orallo M.D. OCDS was assigned as the Formator for the Isolated OCDS representing Fr. Michael Buckley OCD, Provincial Delegate for the OCDS, Western USA Province.

Maria graciously welcomed us into her senior residence and invited us for lunch following which she shared the beginnings of the OCDS in Vancouver. She had an eager and attentive audience in us as we were eager to learn all that we could about our history in Vancouver.





A VISIT WITH TERESA MARTINEZ OCDS

This last October, Ann Wilson of St. Joseph Community Calgary, paid a visit to Teresa Martinez OCDS. Teresa was the first and former President of the Secretariat, Canada. She held office for many years and has a wealth of knowledge to share on the vocation to the Teresian Carmel as a secular. She is still very active with events and fund raising for the Centre for Teresian Carmelite Education and Spirituality.



Always ready to share her knowledge and serve, she is currently creating a booklet of Questions and Answers to be distributed at the upcoming 2018 Congress in Toronto.

The 8th Congress of the Maltese Province of Canada takes place on October 5 – 7, 2018.

Email ocds.secretariat.ca@sympatico.ca



ANNUAL MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL DELEGATE

The Annual Meeting of Western Canada OCDS took place on July 7-9, 2017 at St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer in Kelowna, BC. Fr. Jerald D'Souza, Provincial Delegate, met with Secretariat Officers, Community Presidents and Directors of Formation. Fr. Jerald D'Souza introduced and welcomed Norma Lo as administrative assistant to the Secretariat. After prayers, Mass and a simple evening meal, those in attendance settled in and got to the business at hand. Annual community and financial reports were presented from all quarters at the first session with further discussions on challenges, possible solutions, goal setting and the formation syllabi the following day.

The key topic on the agenda was the review of a draft for the Western Canada OCDS Statutes to ensure these would encompass and provide comprehensive guidelines to uphold the OCDS Constitutions. During the afternoon break, some members elected to visit the fruit stores and wineries for which the area is well known. Upon reconvening, all the agenda items were completed and the evening was left free for a leisurely dinner and recreation.

The final day of the meeting concluded with prayers and Sunday Eucharistic celebration followed by a hearty breakfast. It was determined that the next meeting would take place at Carmel Hill, on July 6-8, 2018.

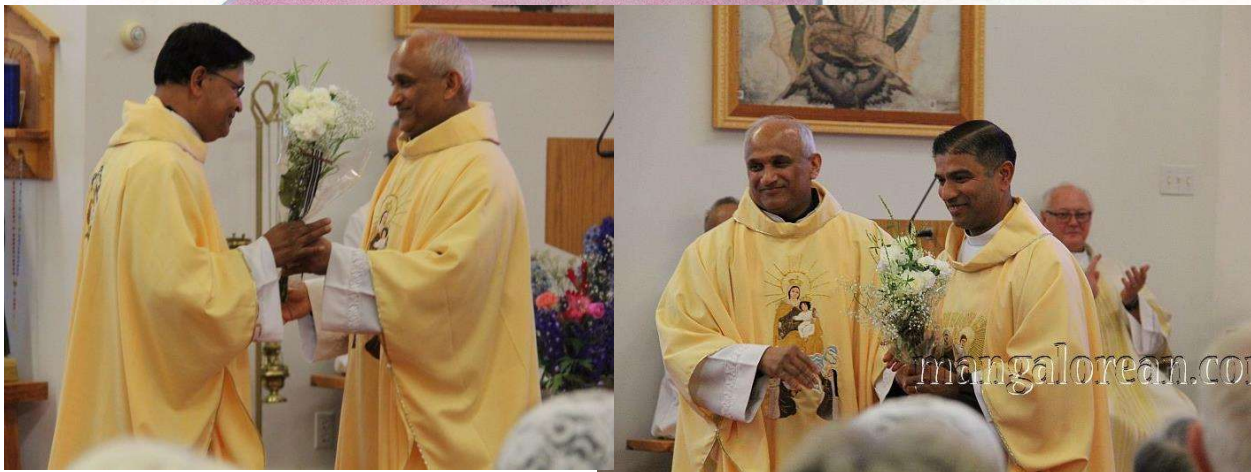


ANNUAL MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL DELEGATE



**INAUGURATION OF
MOUNT CARMEL SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
PARKLAND COUNTY, ALBERTA**

20th of July, 2017 was another historic day in Canada. The Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre (formerly Ephphata House) was officially handed over to the Carmelites. The inauguration was presided over by Most Rev. Gregory Bittman, the Auxiliary Bishop of Edmonton. We congratulate Fr. Rudolf V. D'Souza, who was principally responsible for this transfer, Fr. Jerald D'Souza and all the other friars who have worked towards the realization of this new venture. Let us pray for Frs. Mario Fernandes and Alfredo Pereira, who will be animating this centre.



**INAUGURATION OF
MOUNT CARMEL SPIRITUALITY CENTRE**





Drawing nearer to God: Annual May Retreat St. Joseph Community

Well, the retreat is hardly news, since most of us were there! But here a few testimonies from some of the retreatants' experiences - such a variety of ways the Spirit moves. Fr. Jaison Tellis, our retreat master, gave us some simple yet eminently deep questions to ponder and take to prayer, questions that will linger on in our minds; "Where is God?", "Who is God for me?", "Why this question of longing?", God's question to us "Where are you?", "Is love blind?", "How do you fall in love?" The poignant image/symbol of the mountain served as introduction for our retreat meditations and they soared behind us in reality as we gathered as a group at the end, holding in our hearts some mountaintop experiences.



**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL
ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH, NORTH VANCOUVER**

The Carmelite family of Western Canada came together for the solemn feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Saturday July 15th at St. Edmund's Church in North Vancouver. Bishop Joseph Nguyen of Kamloops Diocese presided over the Eucharist. In his homily he said that Mother Mary who is depicted in today's gospel is not the usual Mary with the decorations of the nativity scene rather the one who stood beside her suffering Son. The same Mary is beside us whenever we suffer and stand by our suffering brothers and sisters. Fr. Jerald D' Souza OCD, Parish Priest and Bursar of the region thanked the Bishop and all those who contributed their mite for the feast. Fr. Rudolf D' Souza, Regional Superior, introduced all the priest concelebrants. Frs. Alex and Fr. Vincent who joined recently the Canadian band of missionaries were warmly welcomed. He gave a bird's eye view of our mission in Canada and invited the faithful to visit our houses at Carmel Hill and Edmonton and experience Carmelite spirituality and hospitality. At this juncture he also acknowledged the presence of the Secular Carmelites and thanked them for their contribution to our mission.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL



THANK YOU, EVA!

St. Teresa of Jesus Community honoured and thanked Eva Richter for her role as Director of Formation with a special luncheon at their July meeting. Eva is the Director of Formation for Our Lady of Mt. Camel Group which meant a great sacrifice of time in attending two monthly meetings for the past three years. Eva was presented with a bouquet of flowers, a spiritual bouquet written on a very special hand made card by Anne Lo and a book titled "Upon This Mountain: Prayer in the Carmelite Tradition". In their appreciation of Eva, individual members offered Masses for her intentions. Eva was overwhelmed and thanked everyone for their show of gratitude. She indicated that they are in good hands with Bernadette O'Connor taking over the reigns.



CEREMONIES – Lower Mainland Communities

Monday, September 18, 2017 was a most memorable day for the Lower Mainland OCDS Communities who celebrated their ceremonies at Little Flower Monastery for the first time. The day started with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Provincial Charles Serrao and concelebrated by the friars of the Canada Region including Fr. Rudolf D’Souza, Fr. Jerald D’Souza, Fr. John Pinto and Fr. Ranjan D’Sa who were all present for their curia meeting. Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of Felicia D’Sa, Fr. Ranjan’s mother.

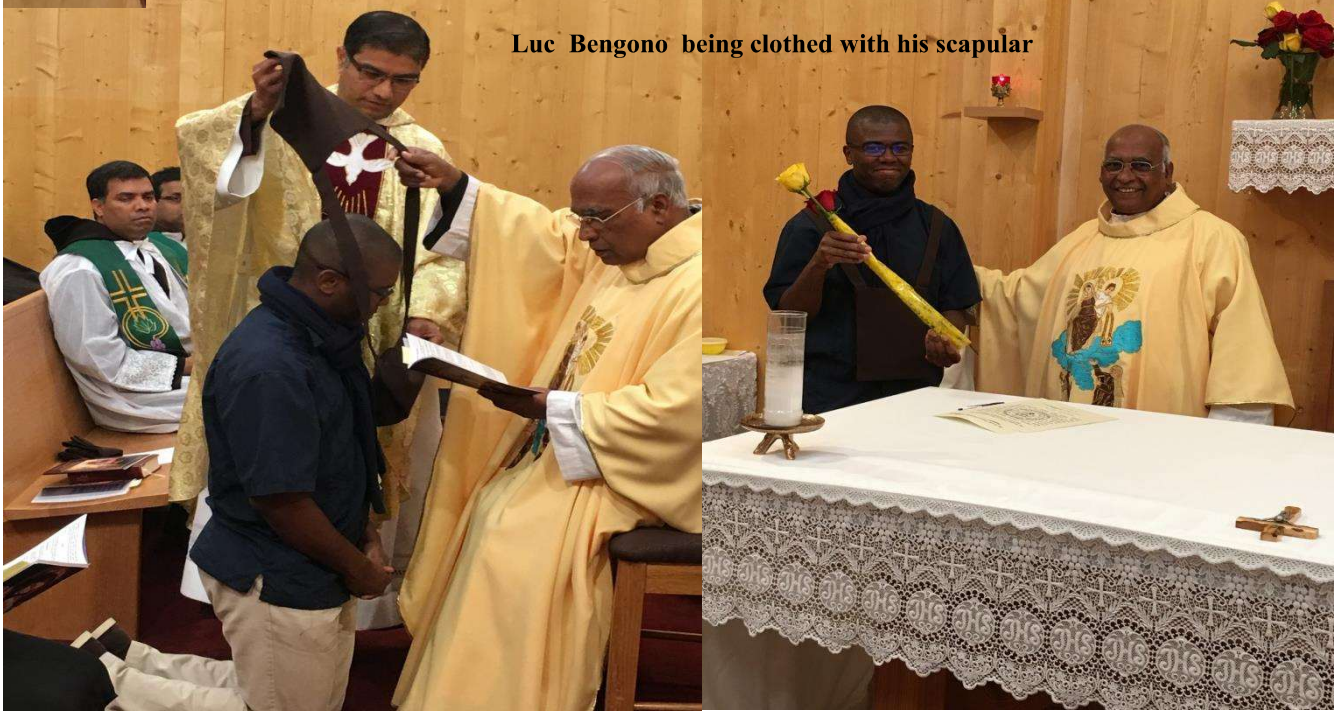
Fr. Provincial officiated the clothing and promises of the candidates. Luc Bengono of St. Teresa of Jesus Community was clothed with his scapular; Virginia Concon of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Community and Jessie Wong of St. Teresa of Jesus Community made their Definitive Promises.

Fr. Provincial’s message was simple and clear: Like the roots that keep up a tree, in Carmel, our relationship with God and others in faith keeps us stronger.

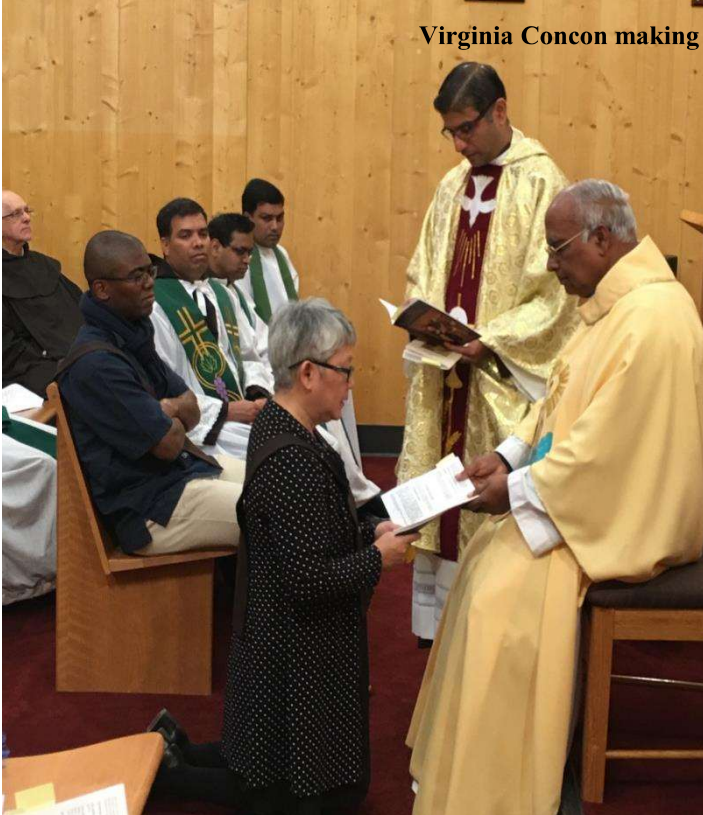
After Mass, every one proceeded up the hill to witness the inauguration and blessing by Fr. Provincial of the newly completed Stations of the Cross. The event concluded perfectly with a delightful buffet lunch shared by the friars and the seculars. It was a joyful and jubilant Carmelite family celebration! To steal an expression of Fr. Provincial when he praised Fr. Rudolf for his accomplishments, most of us seculars were filled with “holy jealousy” of our candidates for such a blessed day with all the friars in attendance.

Thanks go to Fr. Jerald D’Souza, our Provincial Delegate, for orchestrating the occasion and making it extra special.

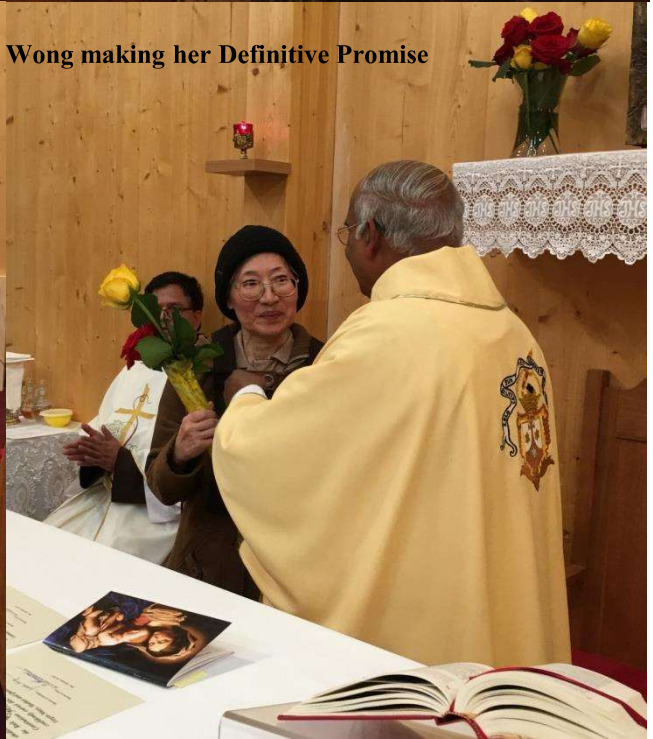




Virginia Concon making her Definitive Promise



Jessie Wong making her Definitive Promise







OCDS DAY OF RECOLLECTION – MARCH ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY, CALGARY

Our Day of Recollection this year, led by Fr. Godwin Pinto, provided some very good spiritual nourishment. The topic was humility. Fr. Godwin presented a short intro to the dark night of the senses and **“Practical Advice for Practicing Humility in Every Day Life”**

The day was expanded to include two hours of silent prayer instead of just one as in previous years, so we had lunch together in between, which was nourishing itself with good fellowship. Special thanks to those who brought delicious food to share – we had a small feast. Thanks to all!



During his pastoral visit to Canada, Fr Provincial Charles Serrao met with some members of the St Joseph Community on September 23, 2017 at St Thomas More Parish, Calgary.

Fr. Provincial concluded his visit by celebrating a Mass for Jane Gatt OCDS, a member of the community who recently passed away.

CEREMONIES – ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY, CALGARY
October 29, 2017



Above: L to R: Phil Hetherington (Formator), Louise Adams, Bernadette Hart, and Ann Wilson (First Promise Candidates), and Fr. Jerald D'Souza signing certificates at St. Thomas More.



Above: Fr. Jerald D'Souza & Fr John Pinto officiating at the Investiture Ceremony of John Maca, Jessica Cataraja, Marta Garcia, and Epifania de Leon.

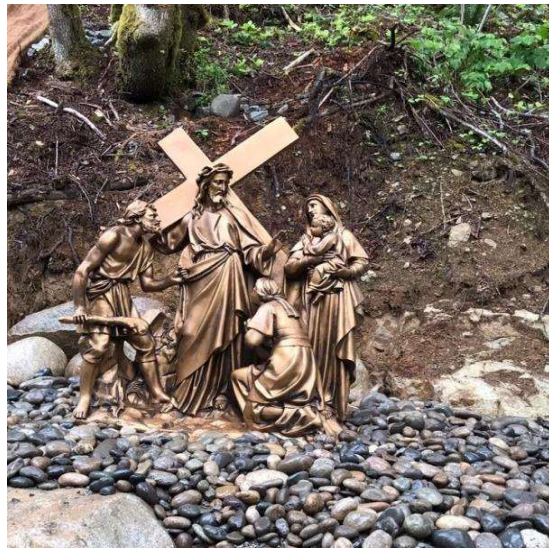
NEWS FROM CARMEL HILL

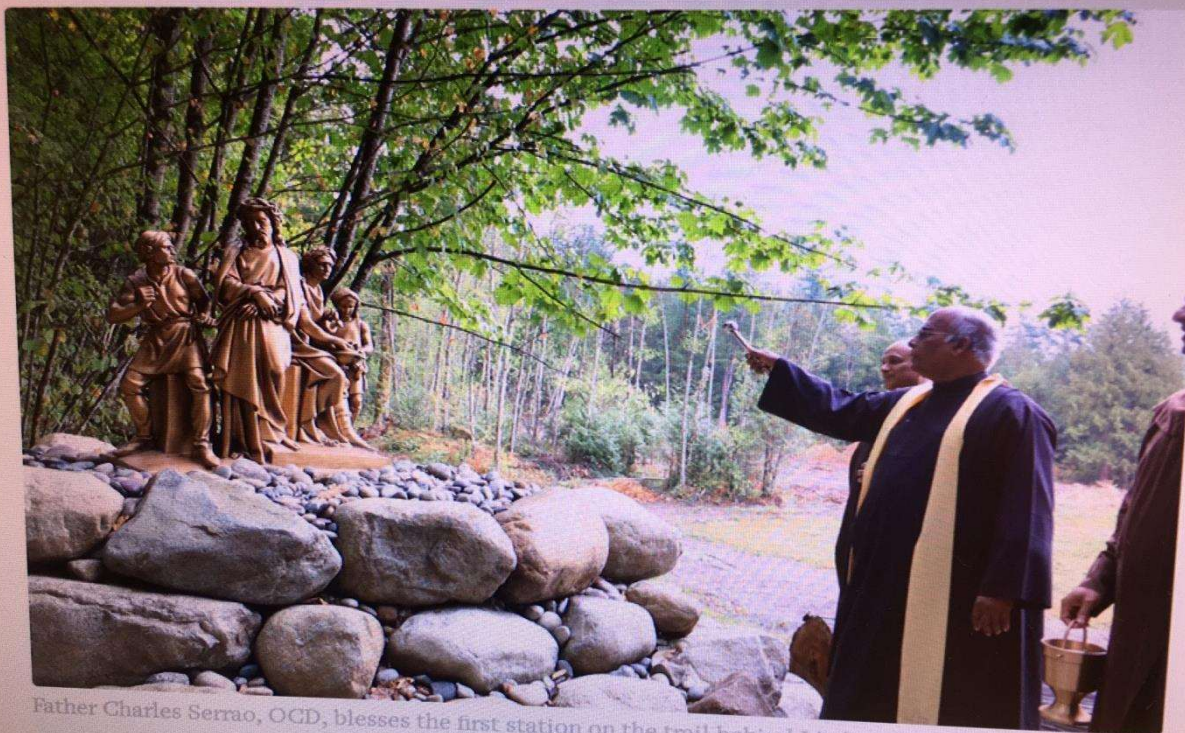
Fr. Alexander Braganza arrived in Canada on June 1, 2017 and has taken up his appointment as the Superior of Little Flower Monastery, Carmel Hill. He is assisted by Fr. Melvin Pinto who was formerly assigned to Prince George.

For more information, visit the website at <http://carmelhill.ca/>



The Little Flower Monastery now has an outdoor Stations of the Cross along a trail more than a kilometer up a mountain behind the monastery. The inauguration and blessing ceremony of the newly installed Stations of the Cross were led by Fr. Charles Serrao, Provincial, after a solemn Eucharistic Celebration while Fr. Rudolf V. D'Souza cut the ribbon and declared the Stations of the Cross open to the public.





Father Charles Serrao, OCD, blesses the first station on the trail behind Little Flower Monastery in Deroche. (Photos by Agnieszka Krawczynski / The B.C. Catholic)



Father Rudolph D'Souza, OCD, cuts a ribbon to officially open the Stations of the Cross.

REPORT OF THE CARMELITES ANNUAL GATHERING AT LITTLE FLOWER MONASTERY – CARMEL HILL – CANADA REGION

Our Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. Charles Serrao arrived on 12th of September and visited all our communities in the Eastern Region of Canada till 17th of September.

The first annual gathering of all the friars in the Canada region in this triennium was held from 18th to 20th September at Little Flower Monastery – Carmel Hill, Deroche, Vancouver.

The first day began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration with the participation of the Secular Carmelites. Two Secular Carmelite candidates pronounced their definitive promises and one was accepted into Secular Carmelite community.

After the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration the newly installed Stations of the Cross were blessed by Rev. Fr. Provincial, while Fr. Rudolf V. D’Souza cut the ribbon and declared the Stations of the Cross open to public.

The actual proceedings of the annual meeting began in the afternoon. Fr. Mario Fernandes led the community into prayer and Fr. Rudolf V. D’Souza welcomed Fr. Provincial and the Canada Region members to the meeting. Fr. Provincial briefed the friars about the proceedings in the recent Provincial Chapter and then gave a birds-eye view of life within the Province enumerating the prospects for the future and challenges we are facing. All the members were happy to hear about various projects that have been undertaken.





The Regional Superior, Fr. Rudolf V. D'Souza presented a brief report of the Triennium (2014-2017). Then the points of the agenda were discussed, beginning from presentation of the annual accounts by Fr. Jerald D'Souza, discussion was held on Vocation promotion, Secular Carmelites, and the ongoing projects in the Region. Later each priest was asked to give a brief report of his ministry in the respective parishes.

In the evening after a mouth watering meal provided by the community, members shared their stories and spent time in fraternal recreation.

On September 19th the meeting resumed at 9.00 a.m. with the rest of the agenda. At the end of the meeting the Guidelines revised by the Provincial Council were discussed and Fr. Provincial noted the changes which were presented to the Provincial Council and approved.

Rev. Fr. Provincial thanked Fr. Rudolf V. D'Souza for being the Regional Superior for 8 years and initiating many projects, especially that of Little Flower Monastery, Carmel Hill and Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre at Edmonton. He also acknowledged the services of Fr. John Alex Pinto the previous Regional Superior. He then announced the name of the new Regional Superior: Fr. Jerald D'Souza. This appointment was followed by the announcement of the Delegate Provincial for the Secular Carmelites: Fr. Steny Mascarenhas, Co-ordinator for the Eastern Region: Fr. Ranjan D'Sa and the new bursar Fr. Melvin Pinto.

Rev. Fr. Provincial assured his prayers and support to the new team and wished them all success. He congratulated all the fathers and Bro. Joseph for the wonderful testimony and Carmelite witness they were giving in Canada. All the bishops are very much appreciative of our fathers including Frs. Melvin Pinto and Ronald Sequeira who were serving in Prince George diocese till July 2017. With a prayer and good wishes the meeting concluded at 6 pm.



**IN MEMORY OF
OUR DEARLY DEPARTED CARMELITE FAMILY
ALWAYS LOVED, ALWAYS REMEMBERED**

**“May the choirs of angels come to greet you.
May they speed you to Paradise.
May the Lord enfold you in His mercy.
May you have eternal life.”**

**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD,
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON
THEM. MAY THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD,
REST IN PEACE. AMEN.**



CARMEN DE LOS SANTOS OCDS
January 5, 1922 – January 10, 2017



Carmen was a member of St. Teresa of Jesus Community, Vancouver. She was clothed in 2002 and definitively professed in 2007. Carmen had a quiet and peaceful disposition and was committed to her ocDS vocation. Due to her failing health, she became a distant member in 2014. In her late years, she expressed her readiness to meet our Lord.



Rose painted by Carmel Gatt

JANE GATT OCDS
October 26, 1954 — August 17, 2017



Jane was a member of St. Joseph Community, Calgary. She was clothed in 2010 and definitively professed in 2015 together with Carmel Gatt, her husband, who predeceased her in 2016. She was deeply loved by her Carmelite community.



JANE GATT OCDS

Jane Gatt passed away very suddenly on Thursday morning, August 17, 2017, from heart failure, at the age of 62 years. At the time of her passing, Jane was at a Mass being offered for her deceased husband, Carmel.

She is survived by her sisters-in-law: Monica (Saviour) and Mariella (Raymond); nieces Claire and Christina; and nephew David. Jane was predeceased by her loving husband, Carmel, and by her mother and father. Jane was a retired teacher's aid who worked with special needs children.

Jane was deeply interested in prayer and the spiritual life, being a member of the St. Joseph Community of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites in Calgary. She received her brown scapular in 2010 and made her definitive promise in 2015. Jane enjoyed praying, writing, reading, and being with friends. Jane will be deeply missed by her family and many friends.

Jane and Carmel joined the OCDS together, receiving their brown scapulars in 2010 and making their Definitive Promises in 2015. When Carmel became ill, Jane cared for him with devotion until his passing in 2016. She was deeply loved by her Carmelite community.

May perpetual light shine upon her, and may she rest in peace. Amen.





GLORIA VALLEJO OCDS
September 8, 1919 - March 13, 2017

Gloria was a distant member of St. Teresa of Jesus Community, Vancouver. She was clothed in 1997 and was definitively professed in 2002. For health reasons, she became a distant member in 2005. She spent her last years in California where her family resides. Gloria was brought home to her final resting place in Vancouver.





St. Joseph

Patron Saint

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