

2009 Congress Program

The goal of the 2009 OCDS Congress is to embrace the challenges that Secular communities are currently facing and to rely upon the collective wisdom and experience of our friars and members to discuss and find practical solutions. The program is designed to address various issues expressed by the majority of communities in response to the Community Challenge Questionnaire sent to all communities in the Washington Province last May.

In addition to daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic Adoration, there will be 4 major presentations by our friars. The presentations will lay the foundation for 3 panel discussions and 3 sets of simultaneous workshops (lead by OCDS), to provide opportunities for each participant to share both spiritual and practical experiences with members in other communities. The Congress is designed to help all attendees take home information to strengthen the Carmelite spirituality and formation of their communities.

The program will cover 4 major areas:

- 1. The Carmelite Vocation**
- 2. OCDS Formation**
- 3. OCDS Community Life**
- 4. OCDS Community Apostolate**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Fr. John Sullivan, OCD

Provincial of the Washington Province

1. The Carmelite Vocation

Presentation

Living out 'The Promise' in the world within the secular state of life,
according to the OCDS Constitutions

Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD

Simultaneous Workshops – *Living out 'The Promise'*

Call, Vocation &
Mission

Promise &
Commitment

Living the Evangelical
Counsels

Panel Discussion – *Understanding Our Carmelite Commitment, Both Initial and Ongoing*

- Living a “life of allegiance to Jesus Christ”
- Daily prayer life of a Carmelite - Charism of Teresian Carmel
- Evangelical Self-Denial
- Sacraments and the Liturgy nourish our personal life of prayer

2. OCDS Formation

Panel Discussion – *Formation Issues*

- Overview of formation in “The School of Carmel” to include discussion of the Washington Province Formation Outline and the OCDS Constitutions
- Role of the local Council in guiding formation and discerning vocations
- Role of the monthly meeting and building community in formation
- Continuing formation after Definitive Promise

Simultaneous Workshops – *Formation Issues*

The Critical first steps of formation – The ‘Experience’ of Prayer and Discernment of a Carmelite Vocation

Training the teachers

Continuing formation after the Definitive Promise – leadership building and fostering maturation as a Carmelite and Christian

3. OCDS Community Life

Presentation

Forming Vibrant OCDS Communities

Fr. Kevin Culligan, OCD

Simultaneous Workshops – *Community Issues*

Leadership
responsibilities of all
OCDS members

OCDS led retreats

Dividing and forming
new communities

4. OCDS Community Apostolate

Presentation

How Can Secular Carmelites Serve the Church in the 21st Century?

Fr. Thomas Otang'a, OCD

Panel Discussion – *Carmelite Community Apostolates*

- Overview of Carmelite apostolates
- Success Story #1 of a Carmelite Community apostolate
- Success Story #2 of a Carmelite Community apostolate

United with zeal, prayer and action, let us trust that our Lord and Lady will bless and guide each OCDS community and all Carmelites of the 21st Century.