

Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California-Arizona Province of Saint Joseph



*Priestly Ordination of Fr. Matthias – St. Mary Church, Mount Angel, Oregon
September 8, 2018*



Provincial Newsletter
Fall 2018

From the *Provincial Superior*
Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, O.C.D.

October 14, 2018

Happy Autumn!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

As I write this, it is raining in Redlands. Thanks be to God! It has been a long and hot summer in the Inland Empire – although I haven't spent much time at the Provincial residence. My travels have taken me from Uganda to Oklahoma City to Washington D.C. to Dallas, Texas to Lafayette, Louisiana.....and not a few places far and in between. I'm home for a few days before I leave on October 16 for the OCDS Inter-Provincial Meeting and Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

As I do miss the retreat ministry of my former assignment, I have been happy to have been able to serve in that capacity several times, in between my Provincial duties. In June, I preached a retreat for the Carmelite Sisters of Saint Therese in Oklahoma City and in September I was with the OCDS of San Jose for their first annual community retreat at St. Clare's Retreat House in Sokol, CA. And I just returned from preaching the OCDS retreat to the Mobile OCDS at the Visitation Monastery in Mobile, AL.

But, perhaps, the highlight of the summer was my trip to our house in Uganda! It was a great joy to meet all our Brothers and spend time with them. Although a fraternal visitation, I sat down with each member of the community. It was a grace to get to know each Friar. It also brings me great hope for our future in Uganda. We have very faithful and capable Ugandan brothers with good potential for leadership. I am grateful to Fr. Philip, my Vicar, who accompanied me on this visit. He was very helpful to me in making some "on the spot" decisions. Thanks, also, to Fr. Jan and Fr. Peter Mary for their great hospitality!



Although we are experiencing a difficult time in the Church and in our Province, it is part of our vocation to keep “our hand on the plow” and move forward. And, we have many things to be grateful for which lifts our hope in the future – we celebrated the First Professions of Br. Matia Mulumba, Br. Robert Ssemijja, and Br. Leonard Kasumba in Uganda and we, also, celebrated the First Profession of Bro. Dustin on March 19 and the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Matthias on September 8. Note the dates: St. Joseph’s day and Blessed Mother’s birthday. We honor them daily. And we must, also, remain faithful to their example and witness. In that, we cannot go wrong. We are sons of Joseph and Mary. May God always be praised in our lives and ministry!



Mobile, Alabama OCDS Retreat
October 7, 2018

From the Alhambra Community at St. Therese Church

As you know St. Therese is a vibrant parish with a history full of many amazing Friars who dedicated many years of their life in service to its people. Several years ago we dedicated the newly built adoration chapel to Fr. Jerome Lantry. His portrait hangs in his cell which is now the foyer to the adoration chapel. We will be dedicating the newly rebuilt baptismal font to Fr. William Fenton and this coming December 8th we will be rededicating the Parish Hall to Fr. Gerald Winters. It is important that we remember the Friars and the good work upon which we younger Friars are privileged to build upon! With that being said I would like to thank all the Friars who have served here at St. Therese Parish and built for this Province a wonderful place to live and to work!

Fr. Albert had a bout of pneumonia a few months back which turned into bronchitis. Although he sometimes has a hard time catching his breath, he still has a lot of air to



share when schooling us on the complexities of football! He attends cardiac rehab regularly for monitored exercise, he golfs with Phil Ryan every Thursday, and teaches a class on “Becoming the Best Version of Yourself” to the Rosary Makers every Monday night. Fr. Albert and his twin brother Fred attended the Santa Cruz golf tournament last month. Fr. Albert will be spending Thanksgiving with his family in Mesa, Arizona followed by his annual retreat at the Redemptorist Retreat House in Tucson, Arizona.

Fr. Bernard keeps us going with the many “stories of his life”. Fr. Bernard is in great health, thank God. He is the Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary, and the

“Covina” OCDS which now meets here in Alhambra. Fr. Bernard has been helping regularly at El Carmelo Retreat House since Fr. Juan Elias left last month.

Fr. Donald is settling in well here at the Friar’s residence since his arrival last July. Although he is very busy as the chaplain for the Carmelite Sisters at Sacred Heart Retreat House, he nevertheless joins the Friars in time for dinner every night. He is a great addition to the community.

Br. Jason works very hard as the full-time 7th grade homeroom teacher. Br. Jason commands 23 students every day and seems to enjoy being back in the classroom. He is an excellent teacher and even spends time after school tutoring students in the library. As if teaching wasn’t enough work for him, he generously helps with the parish religious education program and RCIA, he is a

weekend sacristan, he gives monthly conferences to the OCDS, and he yells at altar server when they throw their cassocks on the floor. In addition to all of this, he spends his day off caring for his mother who lives in Covina. His Mother, Linda, joins us every Sunday for Mass and will join the Friars for our Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners.



Fr. Matthias is riding the wave of Grace! He is a hard working priest, gives excellent homilies, and brushes his beard three times a day. Fr. Matthias rekindled our youth group, COR JESU, and works 4 days a week at St. Therese Carmelite School teaching religion and music. He also helps train the altar servers, facilitates a parish outreach to the homeless on skid row, presides at the Holy Hour on Thursday, and provides a monthly conference to the second OCDS of Alhambra. Fr. Matthias ran 30 laps in 30 minutes around the parking lot during the School Jog-athon fundraiser on October 10!

Br. John Cannon has been

assigned to St. Therese Parish and School for a pastoral year. He arrived in August. Br. John also works 4 days a week at St. Therese Carmelite School teaching religion to the 7th and 8th grade students and PE. He is also involved in the parish religious education program, and helps Fr. Matthias with the Youth Group activities. Br. John seems happy to be here with us and is a joy to have in the community! I am happily serving my third term as Pastor and Superior of St. Therese Parish and School. It has been a busy 7 years but I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the families of this parish. While some folks have left the parish due to some of the necessary changes that have taken place over the last several years, many new families have arrived! If fact I am happy to report that this is the first year in the 7 years that I have been pastor that the school has experienced an increase of students! I am also happy to report that the school has more parish families attending than I have seen in all these 7 years and they are actually practicing Catholics and they are actually having babies! A few years ago Dean Tweedy painted the exterior of the church and last summer we replaced the side doors of the church (a \$40k project). The newly rebuilt baptismal font was designed according to the architectural blueprints from Earl Trudeau from 1950 and was fashioned out of white marble to match the altar. It is beautiful and has already been used for baptisms many times! We are getting ready for the Guadalupe Festival and the School Christmas concert both will be celebrated on December 8th. Finally, our community will be sharing our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner with the El Carmelo community and with my Mother who will also be visiting form Tempe, Arizona!

God bless you!

Fr. Philip



Friars with Fr. Daniel and the
Nuns of the Alhambra Carmel

From the Redlands Community at El Carmelo Retreat House

The community has been enjoying the milder weather as of late. We had quite a hot summer, with temperatures here at El Carmelo getting up to 115 degrees. We hope the extra warmth and sunshine we have had will produce an especially sweet harvest of oranges in the coming months!

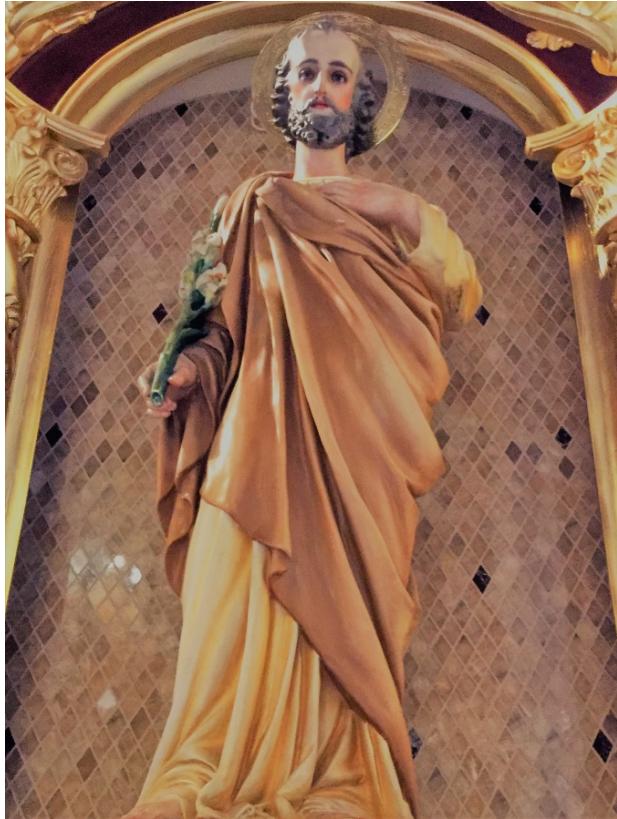
The retreat schedule is currently in full swing, with various groups coming for prayer and quiet time with the Lord. We are blessed to have the honor of serving the many groups who come here seeking an encounter with God and leave with a renewed sense of his peace and love in their hearts. We are grateful to all of our staff, as well as the many friends and benefactors who help us provide this much needed ministry.

The Oblatas de Santa Marta continue to bless us with their friendship and humble service at the retreat house. We are happy that three of our sisters who were here last year, (Sr. Siria, Sr. Gabriela, Sr. Micaela) were re-assigned here for another year and it has been a joy to welcome our newest sister, Sister Irma Yolanda. Sister Irma Yolanda is in the United States for the first time and is excited to be here. We are equally happy that she is here!



This past year, a beautiful statue of Saint Joseph was donated by generous benefactors for our chapel. The statue came from an old Catholic Church on the east coast that had closed down. St Joseph's statue will have a place of honor in the sanctuary and be a continual reminder for all to come to him with confidence and find help in their time of need. As Saint Teresa once said of him,

"I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of him which he has failed to grant. I am astonished at the great favors which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint, and at the perils from which He has freed me, both in body and in soul."



We commend you all to the prayers of St. Joseph and ask you to keep us in your prayers as well.

Your brothers at El Carmelo,
Fr. Thomas, Fr. Charles, and Br. Juan



“Gray”, our mouser.
The Oblatas of Santa Marta call
her “Daisy”.

From the *Oakville Community* at the Carmelite House of Prayer

There is a lot of metal around the House of Prayer these days in the form of scaffolding. We are currently having the 100 year old roof replaced on the Monastery. Last year during the rainy winter season we became aware of several leaks in the roof and it was clear that this would be one of the first things we would replace to preserve the house. The new slate roof should be finished by the end of October. We hope to begin the earthquake retrofit repairs on the main house this Fall as soon as we get the long awaited bid from the contractor. We also had another building project come to completion back in early September in which the old pool house was converted into a new Trellis. Six pillars from the pool house were incorporated into the Trellis. The Trellis was utilized for our 40th Benefit dinner on September 9th. The benefit dinner was a

great success with over 300 people attending. Bro. Jason and Fr. Albert from Alhambra came up to support us with Bro. Jason doing a great job being our MC.

Besides the building projects there has been a lot of traveling of the friars for ministry. Fr. Christopher, our Mission Zelator, has done numerous mission appeals for our mission in Uganda. He gave a retreat to the Carmelite Nuns in San Francisco and also gave several OCDS retreats including Montana,



Portland, and Spokane. Fr. Mark Kissner did the Triduum of St. Therese for the San Diego Nuns and an OCDS retreat in Salt Lake City. Fr. James Zakowicz gave a day of recollection for the Santa Rosa Diocese at the Cathedral which was well attended. Fr. Matthew Williams gave several one day retreats including one for St. Apollinaris Church in Napa and for the OCDS in Lodi, CA. Fr. Matthew will also be giving the retreat to the priests for the Santa Rosa Diocese in Menlo Park the week of October 22. Fr. Matthew has a new office just recently assigned to him. He is now the Provincial OCDS Delegate and he will continue to live at the House of Prayer. Fr.

Mark Kristy has been involved in several projects around the House of Prayer to keep existing operations going and to help us prepare for the future.

We had several brothers stay here during the summer. Br. Dustin Vu from Mt. St. Joseph was with us for most of June and did a great job in helping us around the monastery including the repainting of the Sacred Heart Statue in our pond and also organizing the sacristy. Our postulant brother Noel stayed 3 weeks here in July and assisted in the landscaping making the House of Prayer beautiful. Also Br. John Cannon from Mt. Angel was here most of the summer and was a wonderful presence and great worker.

Next year it is our hope to begin the renovation of our cottage so we can resume giving retreats here at the House of Prayer. We are getting many inquiries about when the retreats will start. Many people have enjoyed retreats here in the past and we look forward to getting them started again so people can enjoy this part of God's Garden nestled here in Oakville, CA. Thank you for all of your support and prayers. God Bless you!





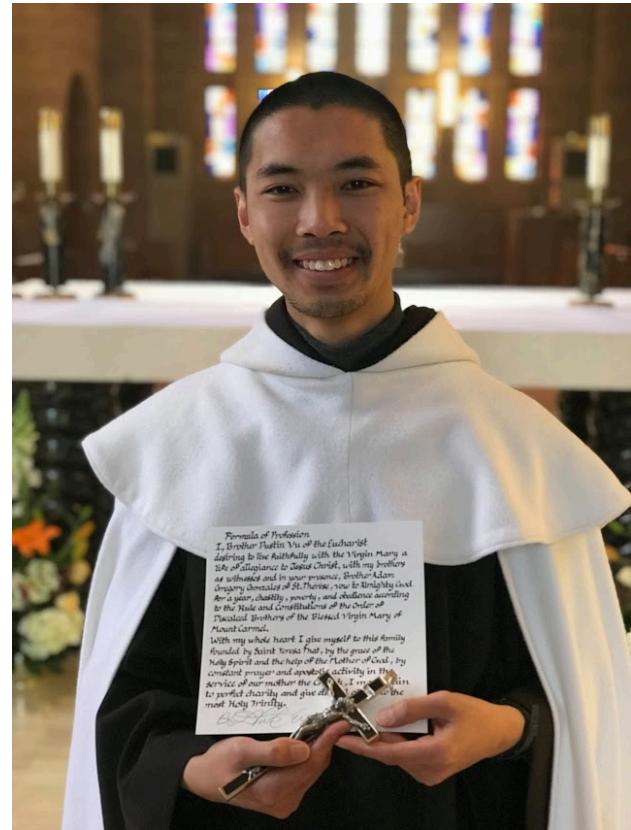
From the San Jose Community at Mount Saint Joseph

Because the San Jose community is a formation community, we begin with our initial formation news. Bro. Dustin Vu, novice, made his first profession of religious vows on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Bro. Frank Sharma, his fellow novice, returned to his own Province in Canada and made his first profession on April 7, Easter Saturday, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Fr. Robert, novice master, and Bro. Dustin traveled to Vancouver for Bro. Frank's profession.

Bro. Dustin is continuing at Mount St. Joseph while he completes his post-novitiate year. Among his activities is taking a class in Vietnamese at Evergreen Valley College. Word from our Vietnamese friends is that he is making excellent progress, to their great delight. Bro. Frank is now in Rome as a member of the Order's International College community, at the Teresianum, and is busy with his theology studies for the priesthood.

Noel Helms, from southern California, began his postulancy in May and shortly after traveled with Fr. Robert and Bro. Dustin to Washington, DC, for the interprovincial initial formation seminar held at the house of the friars there. All reports are that the seminar was a huge success. Noel continued with his postulancy, but in October he left Mount St. Joseph to seek God's call elsewhere, possibly in married and family life.

In mid-September we welcomed a new member to our community—Bro. Mark Charlesworth, for 27 years a Norbertine religious at St. Michael's Abbey in Orange County, southern California. He wishes to transfer from the Norbertines to the Discalced Carmelites. On



September 25 he received the habit of the OCD's and a new name—Bro. John Mark of Divine Providence—and began his novitiate year. Bro. John Mark has known the Carmelites all his life; he was born and grew up in Napa, 10 miles from our House of Prayer in Oakville. He has long felt a kinship with Carmelite spirituality. Being an “old pro” at religious life, he is fitting in nicely at Mount St. Joseph.



Early this year we had welcomed another

new member to our community—Bro. Roger Larre, an OCDS brother living in community. He came to us from the House of Prayer in Oakville. In a few days he will leave to spend a month and a half with the friars at Stella Maris, on Mount Carmel, near Haifa, Israel. While he is there, he will get to see Fr. Robert and others we know who will be on a pilgrimage to Lebanon, Jordan, and the Holy Land. They will stop for a few days at Stella Maris.

In early May we welcomed Fr. Daniel Chowning, Definitor, for his general pastoral visitation of our community. We are grateful for this practical exercise in accountability and communication and for the opportunity for communal and personal renewal it offered us.

On Sunday, May 20, we held our annual Benefit Dinner, again at the Club Auto Sport in San Jose, where we have held it the last several years. A good crowd attended. The Dinner netted over \$100,000 to help with our expenses. We are most grateful to Cathy Gonzales, OCDS, Benefit Dinner chairperson, and the other Friends of the Carmelites who worked hard and long to make the Dinner a success. Planning for the 2019 Benefit Dinner is underway. We will be moving to a different venue, the San Jose Country Club.

On September 1, the First Saturday of the month, we had a celebration of the silver jubilee of priestly ordination of Fr. Paul Koenig and his classmate Fr. Jan Lundberg. The following Saturday four members of our community attended the ordination of Fr. Matthias Lambrecht in Mount Angel, Oregon—Fr. Patrick, Fr. Robert, Bro. Dustin, and postulant Noel.

In the last Provincial Newsletter we wrote of the “Steps to Nowhere” and what was happening to the piece of earth they lead to. They are stone steps in the stone wall at the east end of the parking lot and led to what was a miniature desolate wilderness that had resisted all attempts to change it into something attractive and useful.

Theresa Mai and Fr. Robert and a small army of generous, skilled volunteers have transformed the desert into a garden. The work took a year. People have suggested various names for this newly transformed space, such as Resurrection Garden, Rosary Garden, Our Lady’s Garden, Meditation Garden, and New Eden. Whatever we call it, we want it to be a place of beauty, peace, and quiet all for the glory of God and the good of the human spirit.

We have recently completed also a couple of projects of a more mundane nature. We have installed new main water lines—from the well at the bottom corner of the property to the tank on top of the hill, from the tank to the cottage (Casa Maria) near the entrance to our property, and around much of the top of the hill for irrigation. And we have completed repairs to the septic system for the western part of the monastery—major repair of the drain field, drain line, and splash box.



All the Fathers and Brothers of the San Jose community send you our greetings, best wishes, and prayers.



From the Tucson Community at Santa Cruz Church

This year our minds and memories are focused by the preparation for the centenary celebration of Santa Cruz Parish coming up in 2019. There is a competent and hard-working committee helping Fr Stephen and Fr Jose Luis, as well as a host of volunteers ready to roll at all times. Already there have been two big preparation and fund-raising events – a *tardeada* parish family celebration on September 16th and a Knights of Columbus golf tournament at which the locals were joined by famous Carmelite golfers, Fr Albert Bunsic and Fr Paul Koenig. Next, there will be a parish dinner-dance *fun-raiser* (yes, *fun*) on December 1st.



Back in early June, we had a wonderful outdoor procession for Corpus Christi. Our Pastor, Fr. Stephen carried the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and the Peña family held the canopy overhead. Fr Stephen was vested in alb and cope and humeral veil on that day when the mercury hit 105 – as the kids would say “cool”! A small group of brave parishioners accompanied the procession, praying the Rosary and pausing at the four outdoor altars. Fr Stephen encouraged them with the words from Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on the universal call to holiness, *Rejoice and be Glad.*

Some of the older parishioners, including this scribe, prayed the rosary and waited in our air-conditioned church. We also recalled it was Martyrs Day (June 3) in Uganda where approximately one million pilgrims travel to the National Shrine of Namugongo to honor the Martyrs of Uganda.

Two weeks later we had another outdoor procession – this one in honor of St Anthony of Padua. It began at the nearby St Kateri Tekawitha Church and proceeded to Santa Cruz; no short cuts! In fact, it was extended to include a stop at “Saint Anthony’s Garden”, the site of the Capilla de San Antonio, one of the former outstations of Santa Cruz where Fr Narciso lived and ministered in ancient days. The original Capilla has been pulled down and a new home built on the spot with a plaque commemorating the presence of the chapel of Santa Cruz Parish. Fr Jose Luis celebrates a Mass there every month since there is still a great devotion to St Anthony among the people. They love San Antonio!

July was a busy month. There was a parish novena for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Holy Mass was celebrated each evening with great involvement of our Secular Carmelite groups – thanks be to God. Fr Jose Luis and Fr David shared the Novena at Marinwood, four days and five days respectively! Both were faithfully accompanied at each evening Mass by two African priests, friends of the Nuns, from Ghana and Uganda – Fr Pepin and Fr Samuel. Fr Jose Luis also left after his four days to do a Triduum at the San Diego Carmel.

Following the solemnity of Our Lady, Fr Godfrey and Fr David made mission appeals; Fr Godfrey for two weekends in Redlands and Fr David in Yuba City and Atwater. They were happy to do their little bit for our Uganda Mission. While they were away, the parish was blessed to have the assistance of Fr David Guzman and Fr Thomas Koller at this busy time – two good men!

Fr Stephen had a working vacation in Alhambra where he gave talks to the nuns. Then he did parish help-out in Pinedale, Wyoming, his old stomping-ground in his pre-novitiate days. The Pastor of our Lady of Peace in Pinedale went for a home visit to his native Kenya. On his way to Wyoming Fr. Stephen stopped at Mt. St. Joseph to attend the jubilee celebration for Fr. Paul and Fr. Jan. When Fr. Stephen returned, Fr. Godfrey went to Pinedale to help for two-weekends at the Pinedale parish.

Towards the later part of September Fr. Stephen gave talks in Vermont at the triennial meeting of the St. Teresa Association of OCD Nuns on *Cor Orans*, a document of applicative norms implementing the Apostolic Constitution *Vultum Dei Quaerere* on women’s contemplative life. He also visited his Dad in Baltimore who turned 92 in August.

Fr David was happy to get an experience of the Northwest side of the province, helping at Stanwood while the pastor, Fr Raymond was on pilgrimage to France. Fr Godfrey, on the last day of September, moved off towards Arua in Northwest Uganda for a vacation and to visit his elderly and ailing father. “God bless the sick, the aged and all the living; God rest the dead”!



On September 28 we had a lovely visit from six Missionary Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. This is a congregation of active Sisters founded in 1942 in Mexico by Fr. Bernard of Saint Mary, OCD. They are in the Diocese of Phoenix for some years now. We also continue to have contact with the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Nogales, Mexico and the OCD

nuns in Las Cruces. (Bishop Cantu who was the Bishop of Las Cruces and very favorable to the nuns is now Co-adjutor bishop of San Jose.)

These are challenging and difficult times for the Church. “The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you are able to pray,” 1 Pt. 4:7. Let us journey together in faith.



From the Stanwood Community at St. Cecilia Church

The Stanwood community is doing well situated up here in the great northwest. The fall rain is beginning to set in and many are dusting off their old raincoats to prepare for the coming winter.

St. Cecilia's parish is going strong and moving ahead. This year has been a little difficult with the number of funerals that have been celebrated; to date we have buried thirty-two of our parishioners, some of whom were pillars of our community. Despite the hardship of the funerals the parish has a variety of new initiatives which are proving to be fruitful for the parish. Since the building project was completed last fall Fr. Raymond has decided to focus on the liturgical and the spiritual life of the parish. The contemporary choir no longer exists, and the parish is moving away from Breaking Bread missals/hymnals come the First Sunday of Advent and will be using the *Adoremus* hymnal and the *Lumen Christi* Pew Missal to strengthen the Catholic identity of the liturgy. The antiphonal has also been resurrected in the parish. Fr. Raymond began and continues to teach an adult catechism class on Thursday nights for any adults who wish to attend.

Fr. Raymond participated in a twelve day pilgrimage through France with twenty-three pilgrims. The trip was organized and led by Jack and Louisa Day of our parish in Alhambra. The pilgrimage was to honor the canonization of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity and the 160th anniversary of the marriage between Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin. Some of the site that were visited were: Dijon, Lourdes, Avignon, Rocamadour, Paray-le-Monial, Ars, Beaune, Vezelay, Lisieux, Mont-Saint-Michel, and many others. The Trip introduced the pilgrims to some of the fundamental Carmelite and Catholic sites in France.

A week after his return from France, Fr. Raymond accompanied our Nuns of Las Cruces, NM to a congress in San Juan de Los Lagos, Mexico. The congress was a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Mexican Federation of the Mexican Discalced Carmelite Nuns (La Federación San Jose de Guadalupe). The conferences during the congress focused on two topics: first, the history and the experience of the nuns and friars with the federation; second the interpretation of *Cor orans* (the Instruction for the implementation of the Apostolic Constitution *Vultum Dei quarere*). The week proved to be fruitful and a lot was learned.

The Institute of Spirituality is going strong. Br. Mark hosts a day of recollection each month which focuses on a variety of topics. Fr. John Grennon, from the Washington Province, was in Stanwood for the October day of recollection which focused of St. Therese. The community enjoyed his presence and his sense of humor. The other ministries at the Institute are moving along: spiritual direction and the book store.

Fr. Charles has begun helping with confessions at the parish twice a month and his presence in the community and the parish has been greatly appreciated. He has a number of friends who assist him with rides and other little tasks that he has to complete around the house and outside of the house.

**From the *Jinja Community*
at the Duruelo Student House**

Our three novices, Br. Matia Mulumba, OCD, Br. Robert Ssemijja, OCD, and Br. Leonard Kasumba, OCD, made their First Profession on July 8, in Malawi. Br. Andrew Bimpebwa, OCD, was there to witness their Profession and to support them. They all flew back to Uganda on the 11th of July, where they were happily welcomed back to our community.

Our Provincial, Fr. Adam Gonzales, OCD, made a fraternal visitation to our mission from July 11 to July 18. This was his first time to visit us. He came with his vicar, Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD. Fr. Philip had been here once before, about a year ago. The visit was fruitful. Although they were only here for one week, they managed to see some of the sights of Jinja: the group visited the Source of the Nile, the Jinja Sailing Club, and the Gately restaurant.

On July 21st, Sr. Anna Marie of the Angels, OCD, passed away in Mityana. She was one of the pioneer Carmelite nuns from Germany to Uganda in 1967. Almost all of the brothers went to her funeral in Mityana. She did some of the sewing of vestments, etc. for the Diocese.

On Friday, August 10th, seven of our theologians took the night bus from Jinja to Nairobi. The three recently professed, to begin their Theological courses; the two brothers from Rome, Br. Peter Mugwanya, OCD, and Br. Edward Baharagate, OCD, are taking one more year of Theology in Tangaza College. The group was accompanied by Br. Emmanuel Mayinja, OCD, and Br. Gideon Kule, OCD. Br. Emma is taking a course in counseling and formation. Br. Gideon is in his third year of Theology.

On August 13, our Philosophy students resumed their academic studies at the Philosophy Center Jinja. We pray for them as they finalize their philosophical stage.

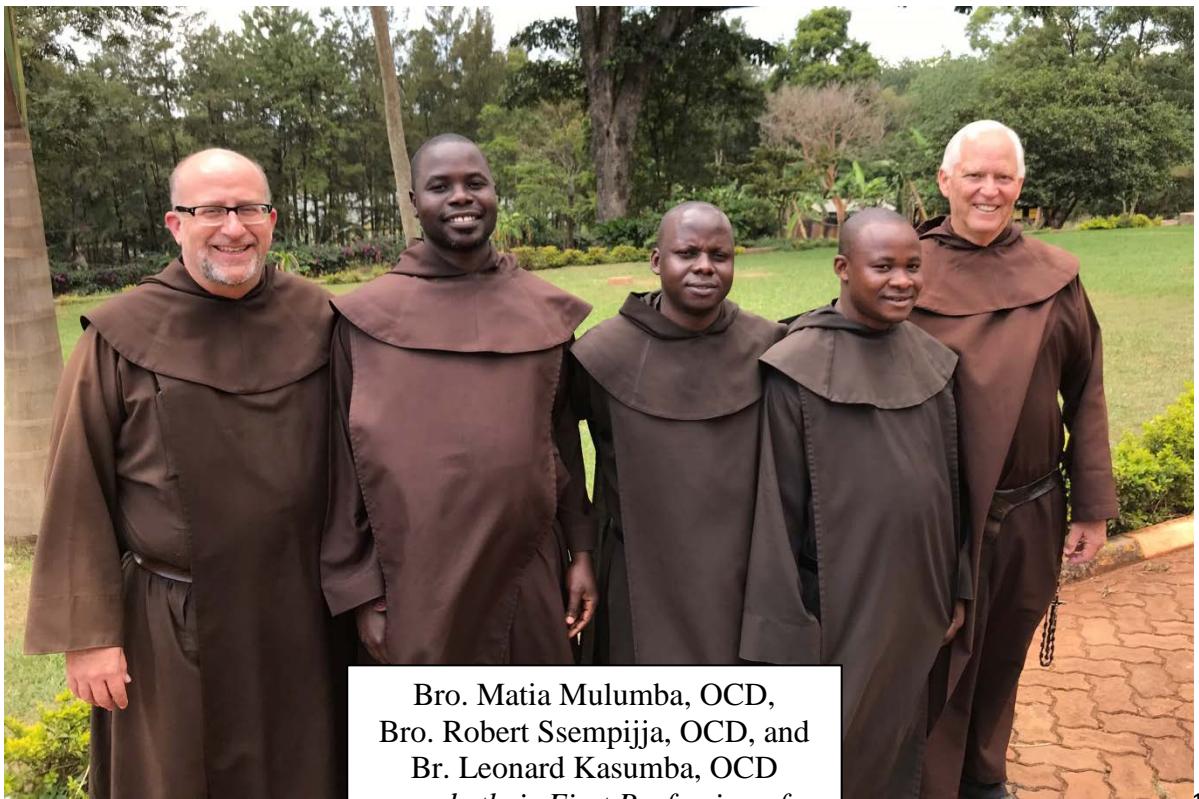
On August 15 the mission received five new Postulants from different parts of Uganda. We give glory to God for the five new flowers in His vineyard. So far they seem to be doing fine. Their first names are: Alex, Clement, Hilary, Stephen, and Vincent. Please keep them in prayer.

On August 17th Fr. Jan Lundberg, OCD took the Emirates Airlines flight to Los Angeles. He had the interesting experience of spending overnight in Dubai. On behalf of the Uganda Mission we thank God for enabling Fr. Jan and Fr. Paul Koenig, OCD, to celebrate their Silver Jubilee of Priesthood. Fr. Jan returned refreshed on September 19th, after having spent a second night in Dubai (in the same room).

Fr. Daniel Ighe, OCD, the Carmelite Definitor for English speaking Africa, made a canonical visitation to our mission in Jinja. He arrived on September 18th, and flew to Nairobi on September 26th, on his way to Madagascar. He gave us a wonderful sharing, in which he acknowledged the developments and challenges in our Mission.

We thank those who have contributed to our house library, and we continue to improve it with new Philosophy and Theology books. Our library will boost the academic life and the reading culture of our brothers. The project was a joint effort of Fr. Peter Vecellio, OCD, Br. Julius Ntalo, OCD and Br. Boniface Nyamweya. Thank you for the good work.

On October 1st, seven of the brothers visited Mizigo Retreat House in Mityana to witness the First Profession of Sr. Maria Monica Nanmirembe, SMMC. She is the third local vocation to be professed for the Sisters of Mary of Mount Carmel in Uganda. It was a beautiful occasion, and it was the first opportunity for our new Postulants to visit Mityana.



Bro. Matia Mulumba, OCD,
Bro. Robert Ssempijja, OCD, and
Br. Leonard Kasumba, OCD
*made their First Profession of
Vows on July 8, 2018*

**From the *Mount Angel Community*
at the St. Elijah House of Studies**



Church, here in Mount Angel. The entire celebration was dignified and inspiring. Praised be Jesus Christ!

Students in our community are pretty-well occupied: Brother Joseph Mary is in Theology II; Brother James retains the office of Provincial Bursar and is taking some classes in philosophy; and, Brother John Cannon is taking his pastoral year at Saint Therese Parish in Alhambra. Formators in our community are Father John Melka, Father David Guzman and Father Thomas Koller, Rector and Student Master. In early August Father John began living at nearby Providence/Benedictine Orchard House in Mount Angel. Orchard House is an assisted living facility. Father John has a one-bedroom apartment there and receives quality medical attention. He gets around on his own with

Our Mount Angel House of Studies update – School started up in late August. Joining us for the new school year is Brother James Lindsay .. and we can use the help! Brother James arrived in August and hit the field running. He and our brother seminarian, Bro. Joseph Mary, were a huge help in our preparations for a dozen house guests arriving for the ordination of our new father Father Matthias Lambrecht. Archbishop of Portland Alexander Sample presided at the ordination held on September 8th at Saint Mary



**Fr. John of the Cross
and his siblings**



the aid of a walker and seems to be doing quite well. Father John sends regards to all. He can be reached at 503-996-1016. Father John's mail may be sent to our house address. (PLEASE NOTE that our mailing address is 300 Humpert Lane, Mount Angel, Oregon, 97362. Our previous Post Office Box is now retired and no longer in service.)

Other new things in the area include the new Mount Angel Abbey Brewery which is adjacent to our

property. The grand opening for the brewery was September 22nd. It, by all appearances, appears to be a success. "O!", and Oktoberfest was better than ever. The O'fest held in September in Mount Angel is nearing gargantuan proportions in visitor draw. The parking, this year, filled the entire town: residential area, paved lots, and dirt fields. Traffic extended for a mile in each direction down the highways.

We at the Carmelite House of Studies Mount Angel look forward to 2019, our 20th year of Carmelite presence and service in the Willamette Valley.



Many of our OCDS were present for the ordination: left to right – Sue Evanson, Cindy Sliger and Christ Hart

From Fr. Ramiro in Rome

Fr. Ramiro will be home for a visit to the Province in December. We look forward to hearing about his Roman adventures!

From Fr. Donald in Alhambra at Sacred Heart Retreat House

On September 1 I began a new ministry as chaplain at Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra to the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. I got to know the Sisters very well last year when I was chaplain at Santa Teresita in Duarte. They have about 55 Sisters there, and there are about 40 at the Retreat House. It is also the Sisters' Generalate and Novitiate. I don't have to tell you that these Sisters are really impressive! They are truly living their Carmelite life! And God has blessed them with fine vocations: They have eight in the novitiate and fifteen in temporary vows!

An important part of my work with the Sisters is helping hear confessions for their weekend retreats and on other special occasions. On Saturdays I have three hours of confessions—with a break for lunch. This time goes by very quickly because the retreatants who come to confession are so well prepared by the Sisters. Even people who have been away from confession for as long as forty years have a good knowledge of “what to do and how to say it” once they are in the confessional.

After a year living by myself at Santa Teresita, I'm especially glad to be back in community again at St. Therese Parish, a block away from the Retreat House. There are seven of us in community here now. We're especially happy to have with us our new priest Fr. Matthias and Bro. John Cannon, on a pastoral year from Mount Angel Seminary. I never appreciated community life so much as now and last year when I was without it!

Count on my prayers for all of you, and thank you for your prayers for us!

Parting shot



Congratulations to Fr. Jan and Fr. Paul
who celebrated their
Silver Jubilee of Ordination in
September
1993-2018