

Organizational Structure of the OCDS

Note:

This is a very brief introduction, giving the organizational structure of the Order of Discalced Carmelites. Believe it or not, this took several hours and web sites to put together. While the information seems very basic, and probably exists somewhere, everyone I asked said that they had wanted this information also, but did not know where it was. So, this is my small research project to diagram the organizational structure of the Order. Any errors are mine, so if any are found, please let me know.

Peace,
Mark Olson, OCDS

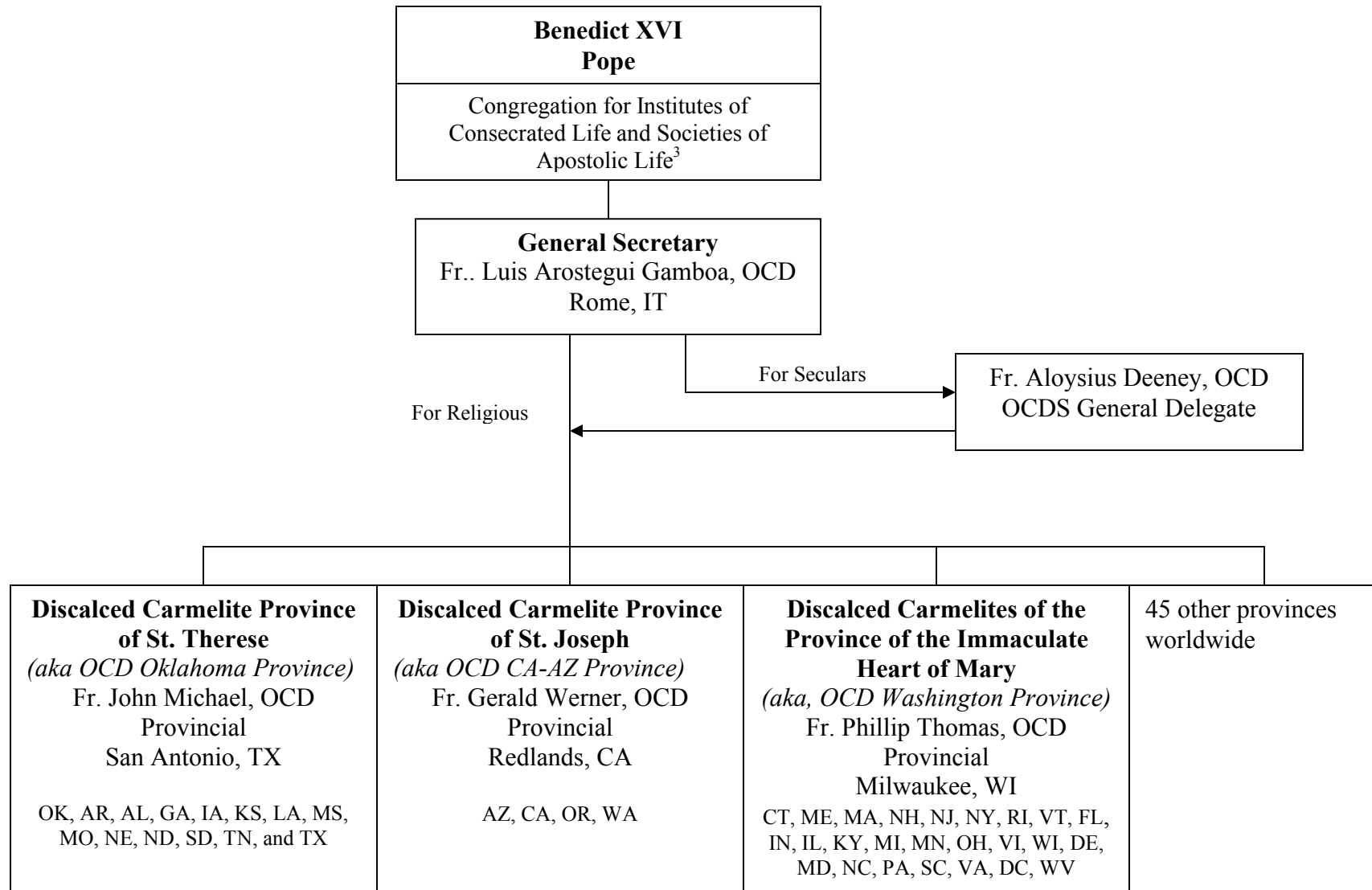
Introduction

First, the major distinction is that there are two completely separate Orders, the Order of Carmel, Ancient Observance, (O. Carms), and the Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD). The OCD broke from the O. Carm in 1560. Today they are friendly to each other, but there are differences. These differences are beyond the scope of this paper.

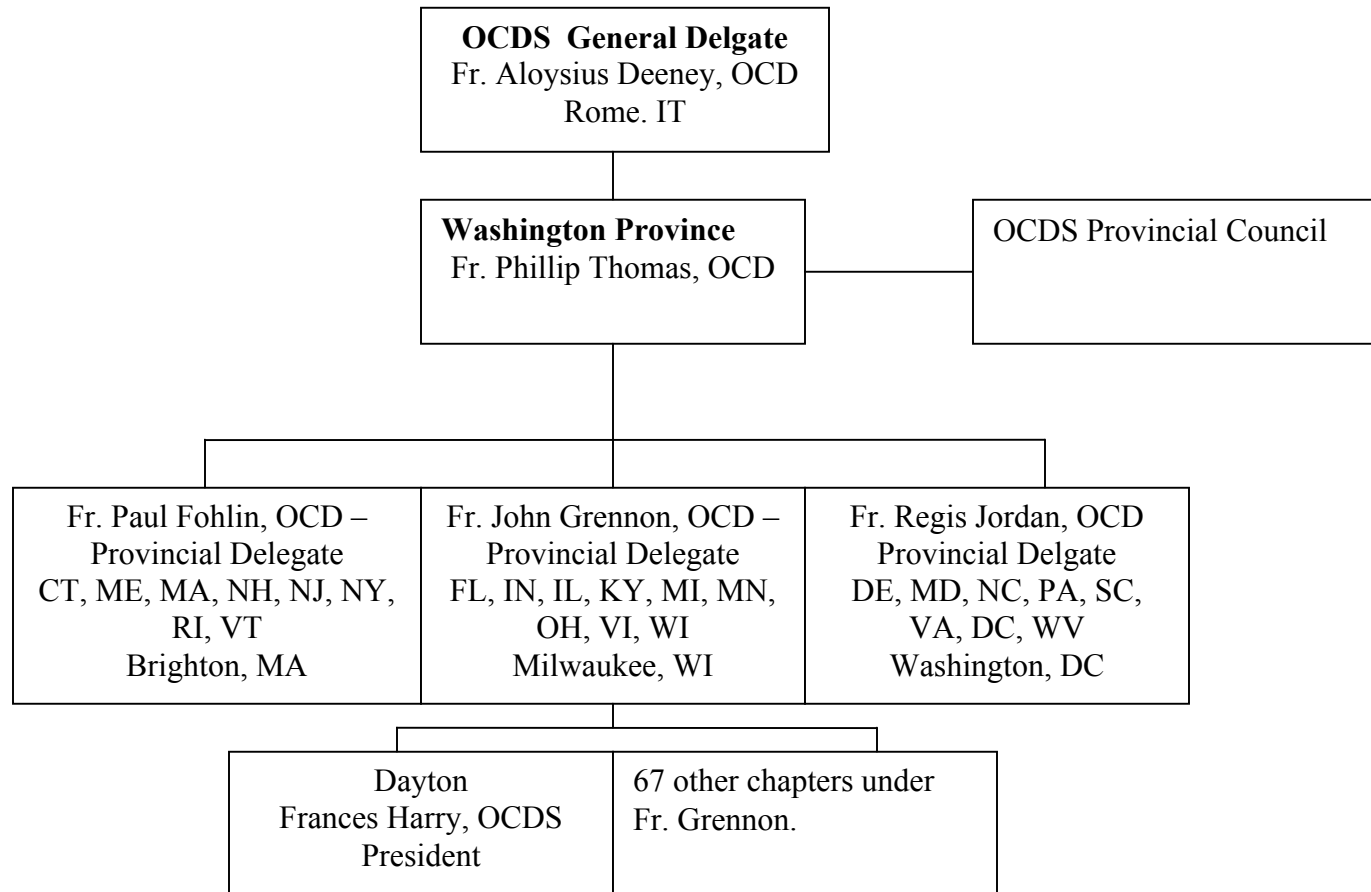
The OCD is broken into three groups, 1) Friars (Priests and Brothers), 2) Nuns and 3) Seculars. The Head of the OCD is called the **Secretary General**. The Secretary General is the equivalent of a Bishop, and is subject to the Pope, through the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The Secretary General lives in Rome and is responsible for all the Discalced Carmelites worldwide. The Order is administratively broken into 48 provinces. Each of these provinces is headed by a priest termed a Provincial. The provinces can be further administratively broken down, but these regions are headed by a Provincial Delegate. The OCD Provincial is also the OCDS Provincial because the OCDS is under authority of the OCD of that province. We, the Cincinnati Chapter are part of the Washington DC Province. The Washington DC Province is broken into 3 regions, headed by a provincial delegate. There is also a Provincial Council made-up of 7 secular members “to assist one another better in formation and the apostolate, but not for intervening in the government of the local communities.”¹

There were a total of 4051 Friars (Priests and Brothers) and Nuns worldwide in 2001. There are approximately 40,000 Seculars².

OCD Organization



OCDS Organization



References:

http://www.oed.pcn.net/index_en.htm (This is the official OCD web site)

USA OCD

<http://www.oedwashprov.com/> (Washington Province OCD Web Site)

<http://www.thecarmelites.org/> (California-Arizona Province OCD Web Site)

Couldn't find (Oklahoma Province OCD Web Site)

USA OCDS

<http://www.ocdswashprov.org/> (Washington Province OCDS official Web Site)

Couldn't find (California-Arizona Province OCDS Web Site)

http://www.geocities.com/korvesem/Province/oklahoma_province.htm (Oklahoma Province OCDS Web Site)

Notes:

1. OCDS Constitutions.

2. Fr. Aloysius Deeney, OCD, 2004 New England Regional OCDS Congress.

3. From http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccsclife/documents/rc_con_ccsclife_profile_en.html:

The Congregation is responsible for everything which concerns institutes of consecrated life (orders and religious congregations, both of men and of women, secular institutes) and societies of apostolic life regarding their government, discipline, studies, goods, rights, and privileges. It is competent also for matters regarding the eremetical life, consecrated virgins and their related associations, and new forms of consecrated life. Its competence extends to all aspects of consecrated life: Christian life, religious life, clerical life; the relationship is of a personal character and has no territorial limits; certain determined questions of their members, however, are remanded to the competence of other Congregations. This Congregation also can dispense those who are subject to it from the common law. Further, it is competent for associations of the faithful erected with the intention of becoming institutes of consecrated life or societies of apostolic life, and for Third Orders Secular.