

Visitors: Introduction to the Order

Anyone contacting a Community for the purpose of exploring the nature of the Secular Carmelite Vocation and/or seeking to attend one or more meetings falls into the category of Visitor. At this stage, the Community should follow these guidelines:

1. Provide a Vocation Brochure containing:
 - a. The name of a contact person
 - b. An outline of the Carmelite vocation as well as the Marian character of the Order
 - c. A brief history of the Order
 - d. Membership requirements as set forth in the Provincial Statutes
 - e. Main obligations of members
 - i. Half hour of mental prayer daily
 - ii. Daily recitation of Morning and Evening Prayer
 - iii. Participation in daily Mass (when possible)
 - iv. Practice of daily devotion to Mary
 - v. Participation in the apostolate of the community
2. The Visitor may be invited to a restricted visit, defined as a visit that does not include admission to any formation classes.
3. After attending a minimum of three meetings, the Visitor may be invited by the local Council (hereafter referred to as the Council) to apply to enter the initial period of introduction to the Order in the next available Aspirancy class. For serious reasons the Council may shorten the three-meeting requirement. During the visitation period, there is no obligation or commitment on the part of either the Visitor or the Community.
4. If invited to apply for admission to Aspirancy, the candidate must complete the application form and present the required documentation in accordance with the Statutes (p. 29, #2). After completing the application process the applicant will be interviewed by at least two members of the Council.

The interview shall include a review of the candidate's understanding of:

- a. the requirements for membership
 - b. the obligations of an OCDS member
 - c. discussion of the candidate's spiritual journey and what led them to Carmel
5. Upon approval of the Council, the applicant may be admitted to the period of Aspirancy.

OCDS Constitutions with companion footnotes. (Footnotes provide an excellent framework to the study of Church Documents)

Resources

Welcome to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite (ICS)

The Carmelite Tradition: Spirituality in History by Steven Payne, OCD. (Liturgical Press, 2011)

Carmelite Spirituality in the Teresian Tradition (ICS)

Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours, "General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours"

Lectio Divina and the Practice of Teresian Prayer (ICS)

Awakening to Prayer (ICS)