

## Chronological History of the St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes OCDS Community, Danvers, MA

**October 1987:** Article appears in the Archdiocese of Boston's newspaper, The Pilot, inviting anyone interested in forming a "Lay Carmelite" community to attend an informational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 29 of that year.

**November 29, 1987:** Introductory meeting (which I attended) was held at the Carmelite Monastery in Danvers, MA. About 60 people were in attendance. Fr. Len Copeland, OCD and Susan Muldoon, OCDS gave the presentation and invited people to come to a more formal "first meeting" on January 9, 1988.

**March 12, 1988:** Due to snowstorms, the first "official meeting" of the nascent community was not held until March at the Danvers monastery. The "second Saturday of the month" thus became established as our traditional monthly meeting date. The community was assigned the name of the newly beatified (May 1, 1987) "Blessed Teresa Benedicta of the Cross" as our patron saint. Fr. Kevin Culligan, OCD was Provincial of the Washington Province at this time.

**October 8, 1988:** The first group of about 25 individuals (including myself) received the ceremonial Brown Scapular at the hands of our community's first Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Len Copeland, OCD. A picture was taken of this event, which became the first photo in the community's *Pictorial History* book; annual community and ceremonial photos have been taken ever since and placed in the book for historical value.

**Fall 1989:** First Council appointed by Fr. Len Copeland. I served as Co-Secretary along with Marie Liguori.

**December 1994:** By this time our community had grown to 75 members and Fr. Anthony Haglof, OCD, was our Spiritual Assistant.

**Spring 1995:** Fr. Anthony Haglof and the Council felt that the community was getting too big to foster a climate of true fraternity; we were growing very quickly and it was difficult to get to know the newcomers. In addition, bathroom accessibility, refreshments, etc. were all becoming an "issue" with the large number of people. A decision was made to divide the community into *two* communities ("Group A" and "Group B"), taking great care to give each of the new communities an equal amount of individuals in Definitive Promises, First Promises and Aspirants. It was decided that both communities would continue to meet at the Danvers monastery on the second Saturday of the month, overlapping meeting times for Mass and the Spiritual Assistant's talk so as to assure the availability of a Carmelite friar for *both* communities in the future.

**April 8, 1995:** First meeting of the two newly established "Groups" at the monastery with the new "Morning" and "Afternoon" overlapping schedules. I was appointed President of the "Group A" (Morning) Council and also Formation Leader for the Aspirants. Each Group was to operate autonomously and choose their own official community name.

**May 13, 1995:** "Group A" votes on a patron saint for the morning community and chooses St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes. At this time, we are informed by the Main Office that we are the *only* OCDS community in the United States with this name, considering the fact that she had been canonized only two years before (March 21, 1993).

**November 1996:** Loretta Gallagher, first President of the **St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes Community of Danvers, MA**, receives official notification from both Fr. Ted Centala (Provincial Delegate) and Fr. Anthony Haglof (Spiritual Assistant) that our community was **canonically established on October 8, 1996** in Rome as an entity in its own right. The official documents/paperwork were to remain on file at the OCDS Main Office in Washington, DC.

**December 14, 1996:** The St. Teresa of Jesus of the Andes Community holds a special ceremony (Feast of St. John of the Cross) during our monthly meeting, during which Fr. Anthony Haglof reads the official decree of our canonical establishment from Rome.