

AUTHORITY.txt

Some people have asked for some clarifications on who has the authority for what and in whose name does a person exercise that authority in the structure of the OCDS.

The numbers in the Constitutions are numbers 41 to 48. And the Code of Canon Law treats of delegation in numbers 137-138.

The hierarchy of authority in the OCDS structure is presented in number 48. Father General, Father Provincial and the Council of the Community are those designated as superiors of the community. It is those persons and those persons only who exercise authority. The OCDS Constitutions speak about the person of the General Delegate, and the OCD Constitutions speak about the Provincial Delegate, but neither the General Delegate nor the Provincial Delegate have any authority to exercise on their own. They have "delgated" authority. So for that reason they are obviously called Delegates. In most Provinces the Provincials delegate all of thier authority to the friars named as delegates. In other Provinces, there are no delegates because the Provincial takes direct responsibility for the OCDS (e.g. Germany, Paris). In other Provinces, the Provincial limits the powers delegated to the Delegates (Korea, Mexico). The bottom line in all cases is that the power exercised is the power of the Provincial.

The same thing is true of the role of the General Delegate. I have no authority on my own, but exercise whatever authority the General delegates to me.

When the Provincial Delegate exercises his role as delegate he is acting with the authority of the Provincial. He is not a consultant. The same is true of the exercise of authority by the delegate of the General. The reason is because both the Provincial and the General have true authority in the structure of the OCDS.

It is important to notice that the Sprirtual Assistant does not have any authority, nor does he represent any authority in the OCDS structure.

It is important to remember that there are some new steps in the organization and governance of the OCDS. This position of General Delegate is new. It was established by the General Chapter of 1997. The Constitutions were approved only in 2003. Not everyone is familiar yet with the vision of the OCDS in the Constitutions of the OCDS. Some may not even agree with it.

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We are all in a process of developing our understanding. Patience is required for learning well.

Aloysius

PS... I showed the above explanation to our Father General before sending it to the group and he approved it and said to add: "The General Delegate is not a secretary but a real delegate of the General."