



Carmelite Communities Associated

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CCA Notes to our Donors

Spring 2022

Dear Friends,

Our sister Saint Edith Stein, a German Jewish convert and a Carmelite, was smuggled to a monastery in the Netherlands on January 1, 1938. On September 14, 1939, she wrote an essay called *Hail Cross, Our Only Hope!* for her nuns. In it she asked them “whether we are still willing to honor what we promised in an hour of grace Will you remain faithful to the Crucified? Consider carefully! The world is in flames . . . the battle has broken into the open.” She concludes her essay with these words:

Bound to him, you are omnipresent as he is. You cannot help here or there like the physician, the nurse, the priest. You can be at all fronts, wherever there is grief, in the power of the cross. Your compassionate love takes you everywhere, this love from the divine heart. Its precious blood is poured everywhere – soothing, healing, saving The eyes of the Crucified look down on you – asking, probing. Will you make your covenant with the Crucified anew in all seriousness?

As we walk along our Lenten journey in solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine, Jesus invites all of us to make our covenant with him anew.

And since we have staked our lives on the belief that our prayers can be at all fronts, that our prayer is a prayer without borders, we ask you once again to consider making a donation to us either by sending it to:

Sr. Barbara Losh, OCD
Carmel of the Holy Family
2541 Arlington Rd.
Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

or by using the Donate/PayPal feature on our web page at CCACarmels.org.

If you would like to be dropped from this newsletter list or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask them of Sr. Judy Murray, judymurray@baltimorecarmel.org

March 2022 Shared Services Update

by Kate Asselin, GHR Grant Project Manager

As the Shared Services Collaborative (SSC) begins its second year, we are pleased to report that the project has achieved 100 percent participation, with all member communities engaging at least one of the primary services provided through Christian Brothers Services, including Accounting/Financial Services; Benefits Eligibility Management Services; and IT Support/Website Services.

Additional services offered this year include the Archival Mentoring program sponsored by Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR), designed to guide communities in documenting, organizing, and preserving their heritage.

All of these services help to minimize time and energy devoted to business affairs and make it possible for the sisters to engage more fully in their vocation to the Carmelite spiritual life.

New SSC initiatives include a pilot project designed to help communities coordinate health care services and SSC membership expansion to other Carmelite communities and associations. A collaborative video project with Christian Brothers will feature the shared services model uniquely adapted for autonomous religious communities with diverse and changing needs. The SSC model was recently cited in an article published by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI *Bulletin*, Winter 2021).

CCA remains deeply grateful to the GHR Foundation for their continuing support of the Collaborative and Carmelite spiritual life.

<http://www.ghrfoundation.org>

CCA Participation in the Synodal Process

On February 15, 2022, CCA sisters, along with Carmelite sisters from the UK, Scotland, New Zealand, and Australia, participated in our first ZOOM session to reflect on Pope Francis' call "For A Synodal Church." As part of our grateful response to his wonderful invitation to the People of God to walk together on our journey of life, we noted:

- ❖ The input from this first session makes clear that our sisters have the same hope and desire as Francis: That this worldwide synodal listening process will be a means of transformation for the whole church, a church that can awaken the world.
- ❖ Our lives witness to ultimate realities: our dependence on the Spirit and our hope in the transformative action of the Holy Spirit through personal and communal conversion.
- ❖ Following the thought of St. Teresa, we also said that we are called together to allow God's revelation in Scripture and in our interactions with others to shape the image of Jesus in us so that we can live life to the full.
- ❖ We have to allow ourselves to be transformed. We hope that this process will re-build the church from the ground up.

CCA Schedules its General Assembly

The CCA Leadership Team has announced that the CCA General Assembly will take place next April at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD. Due to the pandemic this is the first time that the General Assembly will meet in person since its last in-person assembly in 2018. This gathering will provide a wonderful opportunity for the sisters to confer with each other regarding decisions that affect their life and how to continue to collaborate as an association to support each other in living out their Carmelite charism. Donor support for this meeting will make it possible for more sisters to participate, since not only the selected community delegates attend, but as a grass roots organization, the CCA General Assembly is open to all community members. Much of the meeting is also live-streamed to make it possible for those that cannot travel to engage. These meetings have been traditionally enriched by the presence of special guests from other US Carmelite association leadership and leaders of federations from abroad.

Desire, Darkness, and Hope

We are pleased to announce the publication by Liturgical Press of *Desire, Darkness, and HOPE: Theology in a Time of Impasse, Engaging the Thought of Constance FitzGerald, OCD*, edited by Laurie Cassidy and M. Shawn Copeland.

Sr. Constance is a member of the Baltimore Carmelite Community, a founding member of CCA, and a scholar. This book contains seven of her most important essays and ten critical essays discussing her work.

Published to much critical acclaim, the following quotations, which are taken from the front and back matter of the book, give insight into the importance of this anthology:

For decades, pioneering contemplative theologian Constance FitzGerald has been creatively exploring how the wisdom of the Carmelite tradition can help address our contemporary experience of impasse and darkness, and our deepest desires for personal and social transformation ... Sometimes provocative, always thought provoking and change-oriented, this anthology is a rich resource for all those “urgently longing” for a timely reintegration of the theology, contemplation, and the struggle for social justice. (Steven Payne, OCD, Professor and Chair of Carmelite Studies at the Catholic University of America)

An invaluable contribution to the deepening reflection in the theological academy on the role of the Christian (especially the Carmelite) mystical tradition. (Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University)

This collection sets out to introduce the work of FitzGerald to a wider and more diverse audience – women and men who seek to strengthen themselves on the spiritual journey, who yearn to deepen personal or scholarly theological and religious reflection, and who want to make sense of the times in which we live. To this end, this volume curates seven of FitzGerald’s articles with probing and responsive essays written by ten theologians. (Back cover of the book)

A Plug for Amazon Smile

We wanted to let you know that we have begun to see Amazon Smile contributions in our PayPal account. It is such a painless way to generate ongoing funds for us, and yes, the pennies do add up. Would you consider making Carmelite Communities Associated your designated charity? And a special thanks to those of you who already have.

Prior General's Letter to the Order on the Occasion of the Fourth Centenary of the Canonization of St. Teresa of Jesus

Fr. Míceál O'Neill, the O. Carm. Prior General, is sending a letter to the members of the Order to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the canonization of Teresa of Avila on March 12, 1622. Here it is in part; for the full text, please go to <https://www.ocarm.org/en/>:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I believe we are living through a moment of great grace in our Order. The news that Titus Brandsma will be canonized very soon has moved hearts and minds in every Carmelite community. The next few weeks will be filled with the life and thoughts of this very saintly man. As I write this letter, I am conscious of a part of the life and thinking of Titus Brandsma that enriches the Carmelite Family in a very notable way, namely, his great interest in the life, experience, and writings of St. Teresa of Jesus.

On the 12th of March of this year, the Church will celebrate the fourth centenary of the canonization of Teresa of Avila, who was canonized on the same day as Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Philip Neri and Isidore the Farmer. On that day, on the initiative of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, there will a celebration of the five saints in the church of the Gesù in Rome. The new Superior General of the Discalced Carmelites, Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle, O.C.D., and myself have been invited to take part and to concelebrate with Pope Francis, as representatives of the Carmelite Family.



Titus Brandsma

Pope Francis announced the canonization of Blessed Titus Brandsma, O. Carm., will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2022, in St. Peter's Square. At last, Fr. Titus, 80 years after his death and 37 years from his beatification, can be venerated as a saint by the entire Catholic Church. The Carmelite Order, the Church in Holland, as well as the entire Carmelite Family, joyfully welcome this much awaited announcement. For more information go to the section *Titus Brandsma: Priest and Martyr* on the drop down menu at ocarm.org

CCA Prayer



ST. JOSEPH
PATRON SAINT AND PROTECTOR
OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Original painting of Father and Son
by Corbert Gauthier

NOVENA PRAYER FEAST DAY · MARCH 19

ST. JOSEPH, St. Joseph, by your protection, guidance and watchful care of Jesus and Mary, you faithfully fulfilled your role in God's saving plan.

The Church now journeys on the path of Synodality, listening to God through our listening to one another. Inspired by the Word of God, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may this be a new springtime for the whole People of God.

Through your intercession may we become faithful followers of Jesus and channels of the goodness and mercy of God.

We place before you the intentions of all who turn to you in their needs. **AMEN.**



Discalced Carmelite Nuns
89 Hiddenbrooke Drive
Beacon, NY 12508

And in Conclusion

Happy St Patrick's Day!