

**CCA 2023 General Assembly  
Narrative Report  
Submitted by Sr. Mary Clare Doherty (Boston Carmel)**

Be hopeful. Be determined. Be committed to planning for the future. It was with these 'desired outcomes' in mind that we entered into our 2023 CCA meeting in Marriottsville during the last week of April. It proved to be a time of serious engagement as we all face a future seemingly fragile, but one in which we wisely place our trust, knowing Who it is that walks with us

Since our last General Assembly, we had experienced the COVID pandemic that had kept most of the world quarantined. We also had experienced the gift of technology that helped bring us together for the business part of our meeting and gave us the ability to prepare virtually for the April meeting at which all were able to take part, either virtually or in person.

From the State of Washington to the east coast and up and down the country, -and from Scotland, Carmelites gathered. Those of us fortunate enough to attend in person were surrounded by the beauty of Bon Secours Conference Center, which can hardly be exaggerated. We were warmly welcomed by the sisters there, hospitably cared for by the staff, and had the very real joy of being together again

It was obvious as the days went on how effectively the meeting had been planned and how much hard work, dedication, concern, and love had been poured into its preparation by our leadership team, Stephanie, and so very many of our sisters.

The powerful prayer reflections, which opened our meeting and brought us through the change and growth of CCA from its beginning to the present, were beautifully prepared, moving, and challenging. The input, provided by Sr. Nancy Schrek OSF, Sr. Paula Cooney, IHM, and our own Sr. Connie, was excellent, inspired, and fed direction and light into what we knew to be our needs. Sr. Nancy Reynolds, SP, joined us virtually and was always there to generously assist with her wisdom

The small group meetings brought added time to draw closer to each other's concerns. The commitment to our future and the earnestness of the sisters, was tangible throughout the meeting

And we had a very welcome visit from our brothers Fr Stephen Payne and Bro. Brian Paquet, which added to the sense and to the joy of family. Both Fr. Stephen and Fr. Brian McDermott, SJ, presided at the Eucharist during the week

We departed from Bon Secours bringing the support of each other, strengthened to say yes to the present, and with courage to move into the future. Bringing Teresa's charism, we will go beyond our present horizons, certain of her companionship and the strong presence of the dear Spirit.