



CCA Notes to our Donors *Fall 2025*

Dear Friends:

As we approach this Thanksgiving-Advent-Christmas Season, our thoughts turn to you once again. We remember with gratitude the many ways that you have supported us. As the seasons change, so too with all living organisms and organizations. They evolve to the ever-changing circumstances of their micro-niche. In this edition of our Donor Newsletter, we take the opportunity to introduce you to Sr. Ellen Dauwer, SC, our new Executive Director, as well as to update you on our new Governance Board members. At the end of the newsletter, you will also see a change in our donations protocol. Winston Churchill once wrote, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." By that measurement, we are well on our way to perfection! well at least to improvement.

We know that these economic times are a little harder for all of us. Nonetheless we still need to rely on your generosity to help us accomplish our mission of prayer in the Church. We have bold plans, and we need bold friends like you to empower us for all that we do.

In return we promise our gift of fidelity to our apostolate of prayer: prayer for you, prayer for our Church, prayer for our country, and especially prayer for the poor. When we celebrate the coming of the poor Christ this December, may we all be able to welcome him into our homes knowing that we have welcomed him already all this year in the people around us.

Meet our new Executive Director



Sr. Ellen Dauwer, SC

In our summer newsletter we told you that we wanted to hire an executive director to help us navigate our future. We are pleased to report that Sr. Ellen Dauwer, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth of Convent Station, New Jersey, has come to the fore to help us. She is a woman with the necessary extensive administrative and leadership experience that will benefit CCA at this time.

She has served in her own congregational leadership and recently served as Executive Director of the Religious Formation Conference for two terms where her leadership was described as "exemplary." While there, she worked with the board and staff to create strategic plans that guided the conference on an ongoing basis. Additionally, she joined the SOAR board (Support Our Aging Religious) this summer.

We are sure that all these many skills will serve CCA well going forward. Welcome aboard, Sr. Ellen!

CCA Delegate Assembly appoints a Governance Board



Sr. Judy Long, Baltimore



Sr. Bernadette Therese, Boston



Sr. Mary, Latrobe

As we also reported in our summer newsletter, the CCA General Assembly, the delegates determined that in addition to engaging an Executive Director, they would appoint a Governance Board to oversee the organization and its ED. We set ourselves a September 1 deadline. And we did it! You have already been introduced to Sr. Ellen, our new Executive Director. Now we can report that our Governance Board consists of the prioresses of the Carmels of Baltimore, Boston, the Carmelite Communion, Latrobe and Reno and the local superior of the CCA affiliate, the Carmel of Cleveland. For continuity, three past CCA presidents also serve on the Board, of which two are currently prioresses, so the Board is seven for now. The Governance Board has a president, treasurer, secretary, formation director and other roles as needed.



Sr. Barbara, Cleveland



Sr. Colette, Baltimore



Sr. Claire, Reno, NV



Sr. Marjorie, Carmelite Communion, NY

Giving Tuesday and Year-end Giving:



On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, we participate along with many other charitable organizations in Giving Tuesday, which this year is December 2. We encourage and seek your financial support. At this juncture in our history CCA finds it wise to outsource

some of its administrative and sisterly oversight functions for the care of sisters in assisted living facilities. The contracting of an Executive Director to oversee these tasks also means additional financial costs. We appreciate your past generosity and seek your continuing support. Thank you!



We now have our very own Post Office Box

We are always looking for ways to improve our efficiency, and we think this might be one of them. We ask you once again to consider making a donation to us either by sending it to:

Carmelite Communities Associated, Inc.
PO Box 124
Central Valley, NY 10917

Or by the PayPal feature on our web page at CCACarmels.org.

Or see our web at CCACarmels.org/donate for planned giving opportunities.

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

In Conclusion

At this time of Thanksgiving, I am mindful of the peoples who were already on this continent when the European settlers arrived.

I am mindful too that since the human spark caught fire in Africa some 300,000 years ago, we have spread all over the earth. The people we think of as indigenous were also migrants and settlers at one time. We are all migrants and settlers wherever we live, whenever we came there.

In 1621 when the Pilgrims gathered with their Mohawk companions for that first celebration of Thanksgiving, perhaps the Mohawks, who were part of the 5 tribe Iroquois Nation, recited their traditional thanksgiving prayer. Here I am thinking of the final sections which say:

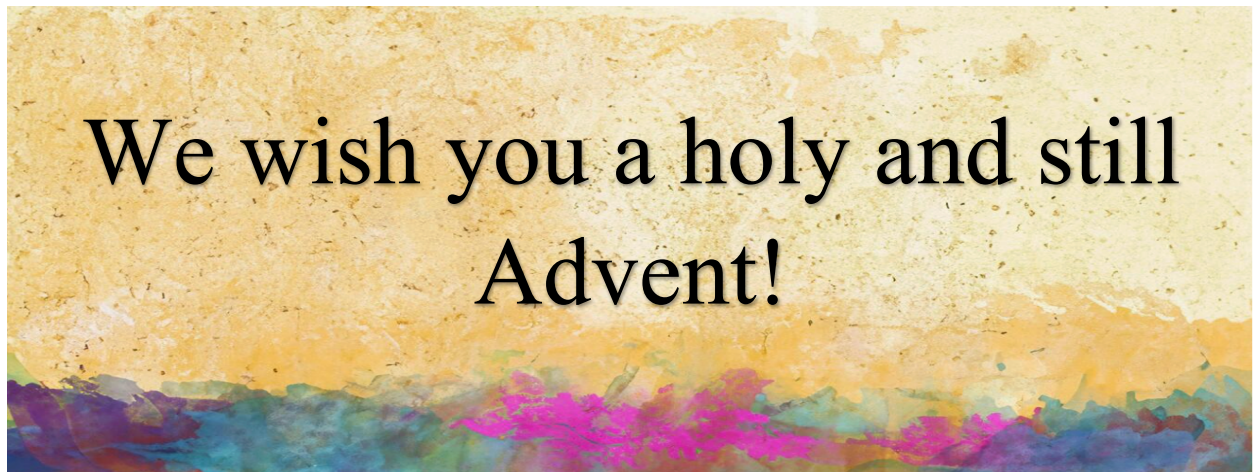
We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Now our minds are one.

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

In the CCA family we also rejoice that our minds are one. We pray that we all will remember once again how to live in harmony on this land which in the end does not belong to us. And we rejoice, too, that we are one with you, our supporters! May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and may you know something of the still silent waiting of Advent.



Carmelite Communities Associated, Inc.
PO Box 124
Central Valley, NY 10917