



Communiqué from the Executive Director

February 25, 2026

Lenten blessings to all!

Welcome to the Winter edition of this communiqué; what a winter it has been for many of us! Hopefully the temperatures have warmed for you, the snow and ice have begun to melt, and the light has significantly lengthened on both ends of the day.

These months have provided a time for me to continue to be oriented to this new role and for the Governance Board to begin to take shape more formally. During the first week of February, we met as a board at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Cleveland for two full days of process, business, prayer, and socializing. As we closed, we all agreed that it was worth the travel and the time away.

I have been able to visit four monasteries in the past three months, three of them for a full visit. More details and pictures follow below. Additionally, I am beginning to meet with the various delegations, starting with the website and continuing with the newsletter and fundraising groups. Once all are fully populated, we will publish their names and members.

Enjoy the updates in this edition. I count on your prayerful support for our continued work together.

Ellen Dauwer, SC



Morning at the Jesuit Retreat House in Cleveland

VISITS

Each of the past four months I have been able to spend time visiting one of the CCA communities. The tour kicked off at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend in Boston, not far from Needham, MA where I grew up and where my two sisters reside. In December, during the third week of Advent, I spent two days in Baltimore where freshly fallen snow stunningly covered their grounds. In mid-January, we gambled with the weather, and I flew to Reno where afternoon temperatures soared to the low 50's. And in early February a few of us from the Governance Board were able to visit the Cleveland Carmel for a tour and afternoon coffee and cookies.

With the exception of Cleveland, I was able to meet with each community for a listening and learning session. This involved hearing the history of the monastery, sharing hopes and dreams for CCA, and receiving input on ongoing formation topics. I was also able to meet the members, pray with them, share meals and conversations, and enjoy their warm hospitality and joyful companionship.



Reno Carmel



Boston Carmel



Baltimore Carmel

GOVERNANCE BOARD

On February 3 and 4 the Governance Board met at the Jesuit Retreat House in Cleveland. The first day provided an opportunity for the group to form and to look back, look at the present, and look ahead. This sharing then enabled the board to spend the second day with a business agenda. In one of the activities on day one, each member used a metaphor to describe what CCA currently looks like. Images included a tapestry, remnant, boat, submarine, trees, and dark night. This gives a peek into the creativity and deep sharing that marked the time together.



Governance Board meeting in Cleveland
(Mary Wild joined via Zoom)

ONGOING FORMATION

The delegation for Ongoing Formation is currently being constituted. In the meantime, I am delighted to share that we have engaged Sr. Barbara Reid, OP from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago to share Lenten reflections on the Passion and Resurrection Narratives in the gospels. She is currently teaching a course at CTU on the narratives from a feminist and Latino perspective. More details will follow but the program will be held on **March 16** 12:30-1:30PM Pacific / 2:30-3:30PM Central / 3:30-4:30PM Eastern.

CCA has also been the guest of the Queen of Carmel Association for monthly webinars with Fr. Marc Foley, OCD on a book he is writing on St. Teresa. We are grateful for the invitation and look forward to reaping the benefits from these sessions. Upcoming dates are: February 25, March 25, and April 29 all at 3:00 PM Eastern.

CONSTITUTIONS

On February 16 CCA met via Zoom to discuss the most recent revision of the Constitutions. Sister Claire Sokol, the CCA liaison for the International Commission on the updating of the Constitutions, provided an update on the revision process. All

present engaged in lively discussion on the draft of the table of contents, facilitated by Stephanie Hauge. Claire will submit the CCA feedback to the commission by March 31 and provide updates as they are available.

DELEGATIONS

Meetings have been held with three of the four delegations to date: website (two meetings), newsletter, and fundraising. Since I have an academic background in technology, I began these meetings with the website group. If you have not checked out the CCA website recently, I encourage you to do so. Sisters Jeanne Marie and Shirley continue to update it and add new sections. There is now a tab in the Members Only section that contains the documents on the Constitutions revisions process; another contains ongoing formation videos; and a third contains these communiqués. (Password for Members Only section is CCA2025. Please jot it down for future reference.) Additional information about the other delegations will follow in the spring as meetings are scheduled for later in February. 456



Reno Carmel



Baltimore Carmel

GOVERNANCE

Sisters fulfilling canonical roles:

President:	Marjorie Robinson
First Councilor:	Colette Ackerman
Treasurer (Councilor):	Barb Losh
Secretary (Councilor):	Claire Sokol
Formator:	Claire Sokol

Responsibilities of Governance Board Members:

Marjorie:	Communications with Generalate and Rome (Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life) and work closely with Colette and Ellen. Visitations.
Colette:	Consult and work closely with Marjorie and Ellen.
Barb:	Oversight of CCA's treasurer, Holly Borzacchiello.
Claire:	Prepare Agenda and Minutes of Governance Board meetings.
Claire:	CCA's Canonical representative for ongoing formation and CCA's liaison for International Commission on the updating of the Constitutions: sharing updates, engaging members with feedback processes and sending feedback to Rome.
Judy Long:	Oversight of health-care needs of affiliated sisters in CCA.
Ellen:	Executive Director (non-voting member)