



Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA) / USA

52 Sisters are represented in this feedback. The CCA Sisters were joined by 6 Nuns from the UK, 4 from Australia, and Sr. Lucia of the Netherlands.

Updating of the Constitutions / General Comments re: Table of Contents

Across the various discussion groups, sisters expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to reflect together on the emerging draft of the Carmelite Constitutions based on the Table of Contents. The conversations were marked by a shared desire for a document that is spiritually alive, globally aware, and genuinely reflective of how Carmelite life is lived today.

Participants consistently emphasized the need for **genuine reinterpretation** rather than simple updating, encouraging a fresh expression of the Carmelite charism that honors our tradition while clearly reflecting contemporary life. They highlighted the importance of situating our charism within today's global context, recognizing the rich diversity of cultures, living situations, and community structures across the Order.

A number of themes emerged with strong consensus:

- **Prophetic and Theological Vision:** Sisters called for a clearer expression of the prophetic dimension of Carmelite life, including engagement with the world, care for creation, and a shared mission rooted in prayer and service. We would welcome a clearer articulation of the theological vision that undergirds the document.
- **Contemporary Language:** we encourage the use of positive, forward-looking terminology, suggesting alternatives to phrases like “fraternal correction” or “entirely contemplative life,” and advocating for language that reflects current theological understanding such as *inclusivity, synodality, evolution, growth in consciousness and collaborative leadership*; emphasizing ours as **contemplative life** not **enclosed life**.
- **Flexibility and Inclusivity:** We desire that the Constitutions respect a wide range of lived experiences—especially for sisters no longer in traditional communities—and avoid naming structures that do not fit all contexts. For example, for many of our Sisters no longer living in traditional monastic settings, the term “enclosure” no longer makes sense. It would be meaningful to affirm that faithfulness follows the sister whether she is in a monastery, a nursing home or residing with an Apostolic community.
- **Integration of Prayer, Community, and Intellectual Life:** Many noted the need for a more cohesive presentation of mission, the underlying theology of the contemplative life, and the intellectual dimension of our Carmelite life.
- **Inspirational Tone with Clear Juridical Support:** Sisters expressed a preference for a Constitution that is spiritually inspiring, with juridical elements clearly distinguished but not dominant.

While acknowledging the challenges of creating a unified document for the first time across all communities, participants remained hopeful. They recognized the value of collaboration and expressed gratitude for the Commission's work, trusting that the final text can reflect both the richness of the Carmelite tradition and the evolving reality of religious life today.