



Communiqué from the Executive Director

December 14, 2025

Advent blessings to all!

Some of us met via Zoom about two months ago but hopefully over the next few months we will have an opportunity to meet in person. By way of introduction, I am a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth (Convent Station, NJ) living in Chicago. Most recently I served as Executive Director of the Religious Formation Conference, based in Chicago. Prior to that I was on the leadership team for my congregation. Like many others, I began as a teacher (Math and Computer Science) in high school and then in college.

While there are many places to begin in this new role, some of the first will be orientation to CCA, the Carmelite charism, and the role of executive director; visiting communities in person; meeting online with the various delegations; and ongoing formation. From there I hope to be able to articulate some goals for this first year.

You will all be a part of my onboarding over the next few months, I am sure, whether in person through a visit, on Zoom, or in prayer. Thank you in advance. I hope to send out this communiqué at least quarterly as well as periodic emails. Communication will be vital as this new role unfolds.

Ellen Dauwer, SC

VISITS

I enjoyed a wonderful day at the Boston Carmel shortly after Thanksgiving (I come from the Boston area, hence was able to combine it with a family visit.) In December we have a two-day Baltimore visit planned the week before Christmas. Weather permitting, I will fly to Reno for two days in January. Others will follow in short stead. Of course, in this winter season and with uncertain airline schedules, all are dependent on external factors such as weather and air traffic controllers!

ONGOING FORMATION

Ongoing formation is a particular interest of mine and, as religious life continues to be transformed at this time, it is more vital than ever. It also connects us person to person and community to community in the learning process. Sister Claire Sokol has shared the previous ongoing formation programs that you have participated in; that provided a helpful history to build upon. You will see below some information about a gathering we will have in February. Hopefully, we will also have an offering for Lent.

CONSTITUTIONS

In late November a Global Zoom was held on the Revision of the Constitutions. Over 300 Carmelites worldwide were on the zoom, representing all Federation/Association councils. Sisters Marjorie Robinson and Claire Sokol attended for CCA. At the meeting, the nine-member International Commission of Nuns working on this project and the Carmelite Generalate made a presentation on their work thus far. Every Association has been asked to submit feedback on the work of the International Commission this far by March 31. Therefore, we will be scheduling a meeting via Zoom on February 16 to engage in this process. **Please hold the date.** More information will follow in the New Year.

DELEGATIONS

Early in the New Year we will set up meetings via Zoom with the various delegations in CCA (newsletter, website, fund raising, archives) in order that I may learn about your work at this time of orientation to this position. I will send emails with possible meeting dates and times. It will be an opportunity to explain the work of each delegation as well as share ideas and concerns for the work going forward.

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 delegated representative to coordinate communication re: the work of the International Commission for the Revision of our Constitutions.

Judy Long: Oversight of health-care needs of affiliated sisters in CCA.

Happy Feast of St. John of the Cross to all!