



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTIONS OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS RECEPTION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS (MAY, 2026)

A. PROCESS FOR RECEIVING AND DISCERNING THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FEDERATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

First of all, we would like to thank all the Federations and Associations for their contributions (57 out of 59), with which we have been able to collaborate on our Constitutional Table of Contents.

We wish to share with the communities around the world how the process of receiving and discerning these contributions has unfolded.

This process, which we have developed as a Commission, takes into account the guidance of Fr. Miguel, President of the Commission, and Fr. Agustí, Moderator and Collaborator.

Fr. Miguel, *Letter to the Federations and Associations of the Discalced Carmelites regarding Const. 91* (sent on November 8, 2025)

“The Commission will gather all these contributions, in which I hope you will all play an active role; the sentiment of the majority will be reflected, while respecting different sensibilities, in accordance with the criteria and spirit of the Nemi meeting.”

Insight from Fr. Agustí, *Rome, Monte Compatri, 2025*

“Compilation of all contributions by the commission.

Evaluation and discernment of the suggestions, to incorporate everything that was enriching without altering the coherence and fundamental content of the document.”

Based on these guidelines, we have developed discernment criteria for reviewing and integrating the contributions, such as: the Nemi Criteria; universality; coherence with the process of the Table of Contents; etc.

Here we present the **discernment process**, from the receipt of the contributions on March 31 through our in-person meeting in Ávila (May 10–31):

A) READING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE

To conduct a personal reading of the contributions within the framework of reference and the criteria for reception.

B) COMPILATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MATERIAL (Personal Synthesis)

To summarize and organize the responses based on five points:

- General assessments;
- Specific comments on the Table of Contents;
- Contributions related to the development of the Table of Contents or the text's content;
- Suggestions that could be included in particular statutes;
- Miscellaneous contributions (isolated proposals).

C) GENERAL FEEDBACK

At the in-person meeting in Ávila, we observed that the general evaluations of the Table of Contents is very positive. There is an 86% approval rate with no significant changes requested by the Federations and Associations. The general evaluations describe the Table of Contents as: charismatic; Teresian; dialogical in form; simple; clear; balanced between the legal and the spiritual; comprehensive; concise; substantial; and incorporating the new documents, *VDQ* and *CO*.

D) SUMMARY BY LANGUAGE GROUPS

After reviewing the general evaluations, we continued our work in language groups. We realized that it was necessary to distinguish between contributions that could be integrated into the specific structure of the Table of Contents (titles, subtitles, citations, etc.) and those pertaining to the development of the content of the constitutional text itself.

At this stage, we took all the time necessary to ensure that each contribution was listened to attentively as part of a shared discernment process.

E) SYNOPSIS BY THE COMMISSION

Using the summaries from each language group, we, as a Commission, prepared a synopsis that helped us gain a clearer overall picture.

Based on this overview, we worked specifically on each chapter of the Table of Contents in detail, incorporating specific suggestions and contributions based on the criteria for discernment. We used the following methodology:

Guiding principles for organizing the synthesis within the Commission:

- 1) CHANGES TO TITLES;
- 2) CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF THE TABLE OF CONTENTS;
- 3) ADDITIONS TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS;
- 4) DELETIONS/MODIFICATIONS/CORRECTIONS (ETC.) TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS.

In this way, after much time and dedication, we arrived at the Table of Contents presented here (see attached file 2026.05.25 TABLE OF CONTENTS).

B. MODIFICATIONS TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

We appreciate all the contributions from the Federations and Associations. After careful consideration, changes have been made to correct and enhance the Table of Contents.

Of all the suggestions received, we have found that some are better suited to the body of the text than to the Table of Contents itself; therefore, they are not included here.

To improve the presentation of the Table of Contents, we have simplified its format. Only the section titles with their corresponding citations, chapter titles, and subheadings will be displayed.

The texts that were included in the previously sent Draft Table of Contents—which were intended to provide a glimpse of the content—are no longer included. For example, the sections listed under “Novitiate” (*Discernment. Requirements. Admission. Duration. Objectives and Purpose. Formation and Accompaniment. Departure. Dismissal*) will be elaborated upon in the body of the text, even though they do not appear in the table of contents outline. The same will apply to other chapters.

Also included in the content are some topics contributed by the Federations and Associations: *St. Joseph, Our Father St. John of the Cross, the Carmelite Saints, quotations from Sacred Scripture*, etc. All of these will appear in the text and in the analytical table of contents to be included at the end. Similarly, other topics will be included, such as ecology, abuse, and relations with civil authorities.

The future edition of the Constitutions will contain the *Rule, the Primitive Constitutions, the Formula of Profession*, etc.

We thank the Federations and Associations for the time they dedicated to reading and reflecting on the Draft Table of Contents, which is reflected in the carefully crafted content of their contributions. We appreciate the sisterly manner and tone of the contributions. We also thank you for the critiques, which have helped us refine the Table of Contents. All of the responses have been a great support for the Commission’s work. Thank you very much!

The following are the changes that have been made:

PART I

Chapter 1

The original order of the chapter has been retained, which presents our Mother Saint Teresa of Jesus as the foundress of a new Order recognized by the Church.

The Origins of Carmel

The subtitle “The Origins of Carmel” used instead of “The Inspiration of Carmel,” emphasizes the idea that our Teresian charism has its roots in the history of Carmel.

The Teresian Family

We have changed the subtitle to “The Teresian Family,” since the purpose of this section is to refer to the three branches of the Teresian Carmel. We find this to be more specific than “Carmelite Family,” which would include the Ancient Observance (O. Carm.).

Chapter 2

Change to quote and title:

“Let us walk together, Lord” (WP 26, 6) FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST

“Jesus” is changed to “*Jesus Christ*,” as this expresses the Paschal Mystery.

The order of the evangelical counsels—chastity, poverty, and obedience—has been maintained, in accordance with recent documents of the Church’s magisterium (cf. *Perfectae Caritatis* 1ff.; *Vita Consecrata* 87; *CJC* 573 §2).

Chapter 3

New order of subheadings:

Foundation of the Life of Prayer: The Teresian Virtues

The Life of Prayer

To be more consistent with the teaching of our Holy Mother Teresa in *The Way of Perfection*, we have grouped the “Teresian virtues” (love for one another, detachment, and humility) and presented them before the “Life of Prayer.”

Saint Teresa describes our style of community life through these three virtues, which form the foundation of an authentic life of prayer. When lived well in community, these virtues open us to a true encounter with God in prayer.

These two points constitute the essential aspect of our life; we have brought them together in this chapter because they are closely linked and cannot be separated.

Chapter 4

Apostolic and Missionary Meaning and Service

As Discalced Carmelite Nuns, our life is our apostolic service, and we do not engage in the active apostolate.

Chapter 5

Digital Culture and the Media

This topic, which does not currently appear in the Table of Contents, will be addressed in Part II, Chapter 1: The Dimensions of Integral Formation.

PART II

For greater clarity, the title has been changed

“THE VOCATION OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES. FORMATION AND ADMISSION” to

“THE VOCATION OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS. FORMATION AND ADMISSION”

Introduction

To ensure consistency with the length of each chapter, the “Introduction” has become Chapter 1, and the numbering of the subsequent chapters has been adjusted accordingly.

Chapter 1

Citation and title: “ A great and very resolute determination ” (WP 21, 2). GENERAL ASPECTS OF FORMATION

The Dimensions of Integral Formation

What was mentioned earlier in this section will form part of the content. “The intellectual dimension” and “digital culture” have been added.

Agents of Formation

The list of agents will be detailed in the body of the text; the following are included as formation agents: “The Order” and “External Experts.”

Chapter 3

Title: VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT IN INITIAL FORMATION

For greater clarity, “Initial Formation” has been added to the title.

Introduction (vocational promotion will be mentioned here).

In conversation with Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, ocd, we have addressed the topic of “Dismissal” during the Aspirancy to provide tools and support to communities when—for one reason or another—they must dismiss an aspirant.

Chapter 4

“Discernment” has been added to the stages of “Novitiate ” and “Temporary Profession,” as it appears in the other stages of initial formation.

Chapter 5

New quotation and title: “What do you want me to do?” (P 2) INCORPORATION. SEPARATION

“Incorporation. Separation” are the appropriate legal terms.

Transfer from one monastery to another

“From one monastery to another” is added for greater clarity and precision.

Chapter 6

Sentire cum Ecclesia

We have adopted the Latin expression because of its universal use.

PART III

Chapter 1

With the insight of Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, ocd, we have seen that *merger* is a form of suppression; therefore, it will be addressed in the section on *suppression*.

Chapter 3

Relationships of Communion and Collaboration

Relationships with our friars and the Secular Order have been included under this subheading to foster communion and collaboration within the Order.

Relationships of Government

The relationship with the Holy See has been added as the first point.

Epilogue

A new quotation. We have replaced the paraphrase that had been used with this direct quotation from St. Teresa of Jesus:

Let us understand my daughters, that true perfection consists in love of God and neighbor; the more perfectly we keep these two commandments the more perfect we will be. All that is in our Rule and Constitutions serves for nothing else than to be a means toward keeping these commandments with greater perfection. (IC I: 2, 17).

C. THE REDACTION PROCESS

Following our work on the table of contents, one of our objectives is to *focus on the redaction process so that we may begin to draft the constitutional text*. As a Commission, now that we have definitively finalized the Table of Contents, we have once again become aware of the complexity of the task that awaits us in the next phase of our work.

In the redaction process, it will be necessary to adhere to certain fundamental principles. First, we must be clear about the very nature of the Constitutions: they are a legal text that expresses and safeguards the charism of the Institute. For this reason, the text should not take the form of a theological treatise nor be overburdened with unnecessary quotations, whether drawn from Sacred Scripture, the Church Fathers, or the writings of the Carmelite Saints. At the same time, they cannot be reduced to a mere compilation of norms. Rather, it will be necessary to seek a proper balance between the spiritual and juridical dimensions—between spirit and norm—in both form and content, so that the text may authentically fulfill the role of the Institute’s fundamental code.

From this perspective, it is essential to keep in mind the two criteria outlined by the Second Vatican Council for the renewal of consecrated life: fidelity to the original inspiration and to the spiritual heritage that gave rise to the Institute, and the ability to read the signs of the times, adapting the authentic charism to present-day conditions. The redaction of the text must therefore ensure the continuity of the charism, while recognizing that certain aspects may be expressed in new formulations, in accordance with the well-known principle: *non nova sed noviter*.

For this reason, as a Commission, we have deemed it appropriate to further explore and clarify certain methodological criteria regarding the redaction of the text. In particular, attention must be paid to conciseness, terminological consistency, the use of an appropriate normative tone, and the overall coherence of the document. We wish to share these guidelines at this time to clarify the approach that will guide the redaction work in the revision of the Constitutions.

To move forward with this redaction process, we will periodically solicit input and comments from the Federations and Associations, just as we have done on this first occasion to develop the table of contents together.

D. SUMMARY OF THE FIRST PHASE OF WORK

In summary, from the beginning of the Commission's work to the present, numerous virtual meetings and three in-person working sessions have been held.

Inspired by the "Spirit of Nemi," the Commission undertook the task of preparing a draft Constitutional Table of Contents, which has been subjected to prayerful reading, critical evaluation, correction, and refinement through the contributions of all the communities around the world.

The Commission's communication with the communities has been coordinated through the Presidents of the Federations and Associations, who have also been entrusted with overseeing and ensuring the translation of the material sent into the respective language of their own federation.

The community contributions, which were then synthesized by each federation and sent to the Commission's email address (March 2026), were received with seriousness, respect, and joy.

Using the appropriate methodology for this purpose, we sought to ensure that the work took into account all contributions from Federations and Associations around the world—not only those that were initially in line with the Draft Table of Contents (86% of Federations and Associations), but also the more critical and challenging contributions. All voices have been heard. We thank you once again for all your contributions, which have helped improve the Draft Table of Contents.

Now, the Table of Contents does not belong solely to the group of Sisters and Brothers on the Commission; rather, it represents the fruit of the effort, reflection, commitment, and coordinated work of all the communities around the world engaged in federal dialogue with the Commission.

Thus concludes the first stage of work: the drafting of the Constitutional Table of Contents. It has been unanimously approved by the Commission, in the presence of Father General Miguel Márquez, who will present it to the Dicastery.

We pray that the Holy Spirit, who inspired Our Mother Teresa of Jesus, may continue to work his grace in us for the service of the Order, the Church, and the world.