



Carmelite Communities Associated

Baltimore, MD
Barrington, RI
Beacon, NY
Boston, MA
Cleveland, OH
Concord, NH
Danville, PA
Eldridge, IA
Latrobe, PA
Oldenburg, IN
Reno, NV
San Rafael, CA

25 October 2018

Dear Sisters,

We hope that the celebrations of the Feasts of our Holy Mother St. Teresa and of St. Therese have brought you as much joy as they have brought to our LT communities.

In this LT letter we would like to share with you the fruits of the thoughtful and thorough work which has gone into the Implementation of the two Newer Members 2018 proposals. We hope you will find the results promising and exciting.

You will also find a short update on our **Sisterly Visitors Workshop** in the Boston Carmel. More detailed information regarding the sisterly visits will be shared soon in our next LT letter.

Newer Member 2018 Proposals

Two proposals unanimously approved at the 2018 assembly were from CCA's newer members. The first proposal for a **newer members meeting** in 2019 is already taking shape thanks to the work of the planning committee: Sisters Celia Ashton, Teresa Susan Dreyer and Agnes Ahn. You will hear more from them about this meeting in coming days.

The second proposal outlined a 'Formation Seminar' to meet over Zoom several times a year during the coming term, focusing primarily on Carmelite spirituality. The Leadership Team, in consultation with the Newer Member Planning Committee, reached out to Sr. Claire Sokol(Reno) and Elizabeth McCabe, formation consultant (formerly of the Ministry Leadership Center or MLC), about the possibility of adapting the Women at the Well program to assist us in implementing this proposal. Both have enthusiastically agreed to do so. We are delighted they have accepted this delegation!

Women at the Well Dialogues is open to all members of CCA - both newer members and professed – with an emphasis on dialogue. We will be using ZOOM technology for each 1.5 hour session. Aspects of the MLC pedagogy will be utilized but in a completely fresh approach to accommodate the online forum. The outline for the first 3 sessions (phase 1) includes 20 minutes of input followed by small-group breakout sessions, reconvening to hear from the small groups followed by dialogue among all the participants. At the 2018 CCA meeting many of us experienced how effective and accessible ZOOM technology was in connecting our sisters from all over the

country and the world. It was a great experience! We hope using the ZOOM technology for these formation dialogues will prove just as energizing and enriching.

We have commissioned a project team to focus on the theme of **leadership**, building on the work of the CCA Visioning Committee. The team members are Sr. Claire Sokol, Elizabeth McCabe and Sr. Celia Ashton. They will work with input from the LT and Newer Member Task Force. The first 3 sessions (phase 1) will be launched as a pilot program beginning in January, 2019. Following phase 1 we will seek your feedback to refine and shape phase 2.

Registration, technology testing (with assistance as needed) and pre-reading materials will be part of the lead-up to the first online session. We hope as many of you as possible will consider participating in this CCA on-going formation program! Stay tuned for future updates from the project team including your opportunity to register.

Sisterly Visitors Workshop

The five new Sisterly Visitors had a very good meeting at the Boston Carmel from October 6-9 for training sessions with Stephanie Hauge and Sr. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, former executive director of LCWR. Stephanie Hauge facilitated the sessions and Sr. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, presented input on various resources that could be helpful in providing support to our communities. We affirmed our hope that the second round of sisterly visits will continue to take place in a spirit of contemplative listening and speaking.

Our LT also had a meeting after the training sessions.

CCA Newsletter

This LT and also past teams have run into the problem of repeating information in their LT letters and in the cover letter of the CCA Newsletter. We have therefore decided to forgo the cover letter of the CCA newsletter.

Mexico Talks

We will be sharing the talks which Father Saverio and Father Rafal presented at the Mexican Federation meeting as soon as all of them are translated. We ask for your patience.

Please know that the LT prays with you for our troubled world. In the words of Etty Hillesum: "Give your sorrow all the space and shelter in yourself that is its due, for if everyone bears his/her grief honestly and courageously, the sorrow that now fills the world will abate."

With much love,
Your Sisters,

Benedetta Thiéris Cecelia Monika Roz