



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

5 August, 2018

Dear Sisters,

In the rhythm of liturgical seasons, August is considered "ordinary" time. Yet even in this ordinary time we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary and remember our Carmelite sister, Edith Stein (Teresa Benedicta). Many of us also begin to plan ahead for other feast days, liturgical seasons and celebrations. In the midst of these preparations your Leadership Team has been working earnestly on your behalf to reach the goals that CCA has set for 2020. Here is a summary of updates on our various projects.

Nuns and Friars Meeting - In January 2018 our former Leadership Team received an invitation (as did Mary, Queen of Carmel, and St. Teresa Associations) from a representative of the three US Provinces of our Friars to attend their Tri-Provincial Meeting September 17-21, 2018. Unfortunately those dates precluded St. Teresa Association from attending because their General Assembly had long been planned for the same time. In February, the friars sent an invitation to St. Joseph Association who graciously responded that they would not be coming. In early May 2018 we, the new LT, began to work with MQC and St Teresa coordinators to contribute to an agenda for the combined meeting with friars and nuns. Since then we have been communicating with Sr. Mary Clare (MQC) about planning for our one day together as two Associations of nuns and our one day combined friars and nuns meeting. As we value mutual collaboration with our sisters and brothers, we will be flying to Dallas on September 17 and returning to our own Carmels on September 20. Please keep us in your prayers.

Mexican Federation Conference - Before our 2018 Assembly, Sr. Monika, Secretary for International Correspondence, received invitations from the Mexican Federation to give to CCA Leadership and the Councils of Mary, Queen of Carmel, St. Teresa and St. Joseph Associations. The Federation also sent wooden crosses as gifts for each sister participating in our CCA General Assembly. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Federación San Jose de Guadalupe, a conference and celebration will be held in Jalisco, México, September 24 to October 1, 2018. Among the several excellent speakers will be Fr. General Saverio Cannistrá and Fr. Rafal Wilkowski. Sr. Bernadette Therese and Sr. Monika will be attending as our representatives. We hope that all the talks will be translated into English so that we may share them with you.

Gent Celebration 2020 - One of the outcomes of our 2018 Pre-Meeting and General Assembly was an enthusiastic desire to collaborate with other English speaking Associations in planning a celebration and conference in Gent in 2019 or 2020 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the first English-speaking Carmel in Antwerp and the 50th anniversary of the recognition of our Holy Mother St. Teresa as doctor of the Church in 1970. Sr. Lucia and Fr. Benedikt expressed willingness to handle logistics (retreat center, bus tours, etc). Initial Zoom planning began with Sr. Lucia of Netherlands, Sr. Shelagh of UK, Sr. Mary Clare, of MQC, and Sr. Bernadette Therese. Sr. Monika has now joined the 2nd Zoom planning meeting in which they discussed themes, speakers and visits to Carmelite historical sites. Dates selected are: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 through Monday, May 18, 2020 (with travel dates May 12 and 19). We will be sharing more information with you in the future.

Sisterly Visitors - We are very grateful for the 8 sisters who have graciously accepted the delegation to be Sister Visitors in 2019. With the LT we are 12. Seven have had previous experience as Sister Visitors, and five new Sister Visitors will be meeting at Boston Carmel October 6-9 for training with Stephanie Hauge and Sr. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, former executive director of LCWR. Our LT will meet after the training sessions. *Please see attachment about Sisterly Visitors for more information.*

CCA Delegated Responsibilities - In speaking about volunteers, we would be remiss if we did not share the following delegations:

Newer Members Meeting: Sr. Agnes Ahn (Boston) has accepted our invitation to join
Sr. Celia Ashton (Baltimore)
Sr. Teresa Susan Dreyer (Eldridge)

Grant Writing/Fundraising: Stephanie Hauge,
Sr. Judy Murray (Baltimore)
Sr. Michaelene Devine (Beacon)

Corporate Secretary: Sr. Colette Ackerman (Baltimore)

Task Force to assist the Leadership Team in planning the 50th Anniversary of the founding of CCA: Sr. Jean Alice McGoff (Oldenburg)
Sr. Colette Ackerman (Baltimore)

Cor Orans - We hope that the emails sent to you regarding notes and clarifications on Cor Orans have been helpful. We have engaged the services of Sr. Nancy Reynolds, canon lawyer, to advise us on any revisions of our Statutes as required by Cor Orans. As we learn more, we will be sharing with you.

Newer Members Meeting - Our Newer Members planning group is actively looking at speakers, dates, location and theme. There will be more information to come.

Grants - Your Grant writing committee has already begun work on writing grants for the funding requirements of our various projects. Additionally we will shortly be reinstating the "Donate" button on our website as another potential funding source. Watch for it!

Technology – A letter from Sr. Celia regarding technology will be coming to you soon.

We are grateful for each of our CCA communities who continue to live our Carmelite charism through the varied circumstances and ups and downs of their lives. For those who have gone Home to God these past 6 months, we are united in heart and prayer with your communities and also rejoice that we have more OCD saints to pray with and for us!

As we near the feast day of our sister, Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, let us reflect on her words as found in Edith Stein Essays on Woman:

"The soul of woman must be expansive and open to all human beings, it must be quiet so that no small weak flame will be extinguished by stormy winds; warm so as not to benumb fragile buds... empty of itself, in order that extraneous life may have room in it; finally, mistress of itself and also of its body, so that the entire person is readily at the disposal of every call."

Your Sisters,

Roz Bernadette Thiara

Cecelia Moniba