



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 October 2018

Dear Sisters,

In the past 6 months the majority of our email communications with you have been related to Cor Orans (CO). Among other issues, we have heard a few questions or concerns from some CCA communities about which CO statutes are requirements, what are options, and what the practical implications are for both our Association and individual monasteries. Also, there have been more detailed questions regarding exclaustrations and visits by the Association President (Coordinator).

We hope that the recent October 1, 2018 letter of Fr. Saverio addresses many of your questions and/or concerns. In this letter, Fr. Saverio encourages an openness in our interpretation of CO so that a “serene and fruitful reception” of the text will allow its “correct application to the Teresian Carmel.” He also states, “As so many studies of hermeneutics have taught us, every reading is an interpretation and, therefore, the disposition of the reader is decisive for the comprehension of the text.” We have found the letter to be very comprehensive in scope and so we encourage you to read the document and hope that you find it a significant help to clarify your concerns regarding CO.

Your Leadership Team has been actively engaged in studying the implications of CO on our communities and our Association. Along with you, we have studied the communications received from our Father General and from CICLSAL officials (the talks of Archbishop Carballo and notes of Sr. Fernanda Barbiero’s talk to the UK association) regarding interpretations of CO regarding such issues as the Religious Assistant.

To assist us in the work of redrafting our CCA statutes to conform to the requirements of CO, we have formally engaged Sr. Nancy Reynolds, SP, to be CCA’s canon lawyer. We have had several email exchanges and one Zoom meeting with Sr. Nancy. At this point your LT is reviewing Sr. Nancy’s initial draft of additional statutes that need to be incorporated into our current statutes. We expect to have draft Statutes ready for the review of all our communities by the first quarter of next year. After incorporating your suggestions and comments, we will redraft the Statutes for your provisional approval. In terms of a timeline, our intention is to have the final draft of our Statutes ready for approval at our next General Assembly meeting in June of 2020.

We would like to hear from each of our communities about the questions you might have regarding CO. We, your Leadership Team, are in the service of your needs and are here to help you clarify your concerns. We would appreciate it if you would list your questions regarding CO and submit them to your liaison sisters by November 15. We will then bring these up with Sr. Nancy at a future Zoom meeting and get back to you with responses. If you have any other suggestions on how we might help you with your concerns regarding CO, please feel free to make your suggestions known to your liaison sister. In the meantime, we will continue to share any literature or information we receive regarding CO.

Sisterly Visits

Thank you for your cooperation in submitting your request for Sister Visitors. By the time you read this letter, the LT and the new Sister Visitors will have completed their training with Stephanie Hauge and Sr. Joan Marie Steadman at Boston Carmel (October 7-8). After a Zoom meeting with all Sister Visitors, your community representative will be hearing from us around the end of November.

Joint Meeting of Nuns and Friars, Dallas, September 18 and 19

On September 18 we met with Sr. Mary Clare Trolley, coordinator, and 5 members of her council. On the 19th we had a full day's meeting with both nuns and friars. We shared on the importance of continuing to build relationships between the nuns and the friars both in formal and informal settings. We also made the following decisions so that the momentum of collaboration could continue:

1. Our next joint meeting of Nuns and Friars is scheduled for September 2021 (or thereabouts). It will be the nuns' turn to host the meeting. Venue and specific dates will be decided later.
2. The three provinces and the nuns will collaborate on planning a Formation for Formators program. We intend to invite both St. Teresa's Association and St. Joseph's Association to participate in this initiative. The 3 Provincials and the Coordinators will put together a syllabus and appoint a committee to work on the specific details of this project. Many suggestions were offered regarding resource persons for this program. Stay tuned for more information as plans develop.

We will post the minutes of both meetings (one with Mary Queen of Carmel and one with the friars) in our website, members only section. Please refer to them if you are interested in more details about those meetings. If you prefer a copy, please ask your liaison sister to email a copy to you.

There are many other things that we will be sharing with you in the near future. For now, let us continue to journey together in union of prayer and with hope for reconciliation and healing in our church and our nation.

Your Sisters,

Benedetta Thiore Cecelia Monika Roz

