

9-8-19 Proposed new Introduction to CCA Statutes

see below for previous introduction (1993) and comments from Cleveland

On February 2, 1970 an Association of Carmelite Nuns was formed in the United States. The primary aim and purpose was to deepen and develop the Teresian contemplative life in the contemporary church and world in response to the call of Vatican II for the renewal and adaptation of religious life.

Several years later we formally named ourselves Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA). Our Association grew out of a desire to respond to the Holy See's directives regarding federation of contemplative communities for the purpose of communion, collaboration and mutual assistance. We developed a 'Charter of Life,' programs for initial and ongoing formation, and grew in unity and in mutual acceptance of our diversity. The values of sisterly love, understanding, mutual respect, and our common commitment to the Teresian charism are fundamental to giving life to our Association and to the structures set forth in these Statutes.

As our member communities face the challenges of contemplative religious life in the 21st century, we are fully committed to living our Carmelite charism and Gospel values. We renew our vitality through deepening our relationships with each other by way of online and in-person meetings, strengthening mutual practical support, nurturing unity and collaboration with the Carmelite family, and reflecting the prophetic voice of the Carmelite charism in our witness of faith and hope in the Triune God.

1993 Introduction to CCA Statutes

This Association was formed in response to the need and desire for unity which we, the member Carmels, experienced as we endeavored to respond to the call of Vatican II for the renewal and adaptation of religious life. Our unity is rooted in the Gospel and our Carmelite heritage, and it flows from a basic understanding, love and acceptance of each sister and member community. By virtue of our common source, vocation, and mission in the Church, we collaborate in the work of renewal through corporate effort, study and sharing. Recognizing a sound pluralism within the one Teresian charism, we offer to share our unity with all our sisters, and thus be in the Order, the Church and the world a corporate witness of love, reconciliation and unity in Christ.

from an email of 8-19-19 from Barb Losh clarifying what Cleveland suggested regarding updating Introduction:

"If I had more time, I would try to send you some concrete suggestions for the Introduction. As it is, I can say two things: the tone of the time of renewal when our communities were much younger and our focus was expressed differently no longer rings quite true. It could be updated to better reflect our current reality. The other and most important thing is to emphasize that our values of sisterly love, understanding and respect for one another in our differences, and common commitment to our charism are fundamental to giving life to our association and to the structures set forth in the by-laws.