**Ghent Gathering (May 12-19, 2020)**

**Desired Outcomes, Goals and Reflection Questions**

Based on the pre-meeting in 2018 held prior to the CCA General Assembly meeting, t**here was a strong recognition of the need to work together, to support each other, and to meet face to face.**

Ghent is a celebration, an opportunity to listen to key leaders/experts present material of common interest and to share perspectives.

Desired Outcomes:

* Shared experience of learning, prayer, celebration and discussion deepens bonds of friendship and collaboration among the participants
* Common issues affecting living the life are identified and ways to address are explored and shared
* Options for future growth of the Carmelite Charism considered
* Commitment made to fostering communion among us

Possible Reflection Questions posed during small or large group sharing after presentations by speakers (in addition to those proposed by the presenters):

**Learning from History:**

What kind of adaptations did the early English sisters do to establish Carmel? What can we learn from their experience to look at new ways to adapt now in order to grow?

**Formation:**

In light of what we have heard, and the realities of our current situation how do we envisage the future? How can we strengthen the bonds of those in formation and early years of profession that are dispersed throughout our communities, reduce their isolation, etc. Can we look at some kind of common novitiate experiences or shared formation experiences? How do we address the need to form formators?

**The Carmelite Charism**

1. For areas where Carmelite communities are shrinking, what can be done to keep the lived charism alive and vibrant?
2. There is a hunger for prayer/spirituality in our world. How do we share our rich Carmelite Charism with others? Attract young women? Are there signs of success?

**Cor Orans**

* 1. How are the other Federations and Associations updating/changing their by laws, etc. What are they emphasizing? What do they think is most important? What experts are we using to assist, can there be some sharing on this? How best to share what is happening?
  2. With Presidents and councilors being called on by Cor Orans to do more than they have before, can we brainstorm together challenges, what has been helpful, what network of resources can we tap: perhaps active religious communities? Involve the laity?
  3. What will be the impact of Cor Orans on our Constitutions? (Ask Fr. Saverio) Will there be a rewrite of our Constitutions? How will the nuns be involved in this endeavor.

**Collaboration**

How best do we continue to collaborate on matters that affect all of us? Such as formation, shrinking communities, leadership, healthcare, outsourcing/shared services, vocations, community living, etc.