

Report on CCA Goal #4 and Hilary's Accountability

CCA Goal 4: We have continued to provide active, mutual support to the identified needs of our communities.

At our first Google Chat, the Leadership Team decided to continue the "liaison system" begun in the previous term. At first, each of us took 3 communities as our responsibility for communication and support. Later, we thought it best to relieve Claire of this responsibility because of her increasing international role. So at present, Marian is liaison for Boston, Barrington, Oldenburg, and Latrobe. Judy Murray is liaison for Concord, Eldridge, Cleveland, and Beacon. Hilary is liaison for Reno, Danville, Baltimore, and San Rafael. We all found serving as liaison very rewarding.

In order to improve the relationship between Leadership Team and communities, we also decided to try to visit a variety of CCA communities. So we held Leadership Team Meetings at 3 different Carmels: Baltimore, Reno, and Barrington. In addition, we visited Eldridge in August and spent a day and a night with the community at San Rafael.

At the CCA Meeting of 2014, the Sisters identified two particular areas in which all twelve of our communities need active support, both from each other and from the Leadership Team. They are:

- The need for help with discernment and decision-making in the area of health, aging, and diminishment of numbers of sisters and
- The need for help with and improvement of both initial and ongoing formation, especially formation in leadership.

During the time of the Leadership Team of 2014-2016, we took initiative in order to explore a partnership with the Ministry Leadership Center in Sacramento, California. As you have already heard in Sr. Marian's report, Sr. Claire's initial conversations with Larry O'Connell and Sr. Kathleen Pruitt resulted in the creation of a Visioning Committee which met in Sacramento last November and has continued working toward a draft of a possible program as well as a proposal for the CCA Delegate-Assembly to decide. Our purpose was two-fold: to explore a program designed for CCA communities to form sisters as leaders whatever their area of responsibility in their local communities and to assist CCA communities to work together to share their Carmelite charism more deeply and effectively with each other, the church and the various cultures of our country and our world.

By preparing sisters for many levels of leadership both spiritually and practically, this program better enables our communities to address the issues of aging and diminishment against the more positive background of moving our charism into the future.

Since this program combines practical education in human development, communication, finance, and canon law with a study of our Carmelite charism we also see our partnership with MLC as indirectly assisting us to attract and motivate new sisters.

Early last fall, Sr. Sue Lumb helped the Leadership Team and CCA address the need for support as communities face the issues of diminishment and aging when she issued an invitation to all twelve CCA prioresses to meet and share their needs with each other. In the end, only three communities could arrange to meet, though several others expressed interest and were open to meeting on the Internet. So in January, Concord hosted representatives from Beacon and Barrington, and these sisters met: Claudette Blais and Hilary Case from Concord, Marjorie Robinson and Michaelene Devine from Beacon, and Mary Davin and Sue Lumb from Barrington. Kelly Connors, Concord's canon lawyer, joined the six of us for a pizza supper and outlined the support she can provide by helping religious groups to identify their options and their hopes, then working out the legal necessities for them. Hilary took notes and sent them to the other members of the Leadership Team.

This group hopes to expand. They have already met as a special interest group here at the CCA Meeting.

Support for Initial and Ongoing Formation: The Newer Members' Meeting

As Marian has said, the Leadership Team delegated Sr. Carol Sachse (Reno) and Sr. Maria Fidelis Musiko (San Rafael) to plan the Newer Members' Meeting, which took place in Darien, IL last August. Sr. Kathleen Pruitt served as Facilitator of this meeting, and CCA supported it by paying her stipend. As Team Liaison for this group, Sr. Claire enjoyed working with them, and she has continued to support them since then, meeting with the 4 members of the Panel on many Zooms. All 4 of us participated in this first Newer Members' Meeting; two of us are, in fact, Newer Members.

Besides presentations on Leadership by Sr. Kathleen, all of us profited from a dual presentation given by Marian and Claire on the History of CCA. This filled us in on some information that had been hazy and set us up for Sr. Michaelene's suggestion that the Newer Members do a new study of the Charter of Life. This was one of the outcomes of the Darien Meeting, along with the formation of the Panel and the plan to meet again as Newer Members in 2017.

Equally important outcomes can't be quantified but must be mentioned: the formation of new friendships, the sense of deepening love for Carmel and for CCA, the increased commitment of all the sisters to helping CCA and its member-communities move into the future, a future filled with tough challenges and enriching possibilities.

My responsibilities:

Secretary—writing the minutes for Leadership Team Meetings and Zooms

Compiling the responses to the CICALSAL questionnaire in 2014

Proofreader—of Letters to Communities, Cover Letters for the CCA Newsletter, and other communications needing to be sent, both nationally and internationally.

Liaison to 4 communities, as described above.

Participated in shared responsibilities such as chairing meetings, starting the agenda, and writing cover letters and letters to communities