



March 5, 2020

Dear Sisters,

We are remembering you and praying for you as we embark on our Lenten journey. May this be a time filled with blessings for you and your communities.

There are two items we would like to share with you:

### **1. Ghent meeting**

The preparations for the Ghent meeting are well on the way! As we mentioned in a previous letter, Ghent is a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English Carmel. It will also provide us with an opportunity to share perspectives on common concerns and issues with representatives of other English-speaking associations. The meeting will feature 3 presenters: Sr. Connie FitzGerald will speak on the history of English Carmel. Fr. Saverio Cannistra and Dr. Rowan Williams have been asked to present on formation, the future of Carmel, and on the relevance of the Carmelite charism in today's world. In addition to the featured speakers, there will be visits to Hoogstraten and many other sites pertinent to the history of English-speaking Carmel. Fr. Benedict Cobben and Sister Lucia van Steensel of the Netherlands Federation, whom some of you have met at our 2018 Assembly, have done wonders to help with organizing the history tours and arranging everything to do with accommodations and the retreat center!

We are happy to report that both Mary Queen of Carmel Association and St. Teresa Association will be represented at the meeting. There will also be a number of sisters representing the Associations/Federations from Australia, Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands and English-speaking Africa. Currently, there are 29 sisters registered to participate at this historic meeting.

We have also invited Fr. Daniel Chowning and Fr. Rafal from our Generalate to participate in the meeting. They along with Fr. Saverio will be part of a panel who will field questions from the participants. The LT will be happy to represent your voice at our discussions. *If there are questions or topics you would like to see discussed, please email these to us on the attached form by April 15.* As a point of reference, we ask you

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Baltimore MD Beacon NY Boston MA Concord NH Danville PA Eldridge IA  
Barrington RI San Rafael CA Cleveland OH Latrobe PA Oldenburg IN Reno NV

to review the attached “Desired Outcomes and Goals” document which includes reflection questions and topics we intend to bring up at the meeting. We will report back to you on the outcomes of the Ghent meeting during our June Assembly.

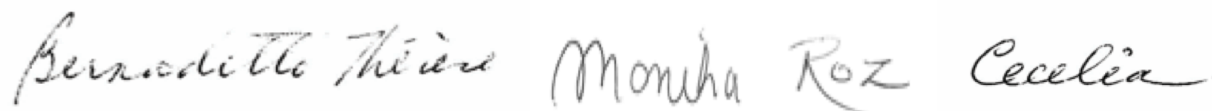
## **2. Pre-meeting CCA Assembly 2020**

We will not have a pre-meeting before our 2020 Assembly because representatives of Mary Queen of Carmel and St. Teresa Association as well as representatives of English-speaking International Associations/Federations will have had an opportunity to share at the Ghent Meeting.

May our desire to live in communion with one another and with all of God's creation be renewed during this Lenten season.

With love,

Your sisters



Bernadette Thiérs Monika Roz Cecelia

### **Attachments:**

1. Desired Outcomes
2. Form for Communities (Topics/Questions)