



April 25, 2020
Feast of St. Mark

Dear Sisters,

With deep gratitude for their community's support and their willingness to serve on CCA Leadership, we are happy to announce:

Nominee Slate for 2020-2022

Sr. Marjorie Robinson (Beacon)	for coordinator(President) or council member
Sr. Rosalind Forrest (Reno)	for council member only
Sr. Mary Fleig (Baltimore)	for council member only
Sr. Shirley Marie Ahearn (Latrobe)	for council member only

As you are aware, sadly we had to postpone our in-person General Assembly scheduled for June 2020 due to the Covid19 pandemic. Your LT has consulted with canon lawyers on what we might do to address the issue of our CCA leadership elections. In a recent mailing from RCRI, we have received the following information:

Is presence at the chapter required? Is presence required for a canonical election?

Presence is clearly normative with the determination of a majority based on the number present. Canon 167§1 on canonical elections also requires presence of the electors for an election. This norm states that "voting by letter or proxy is excluded unless the statutes (proper law) legitimately provide otherwise." [1]

[1] Paragraph 2 canon 167 makes special provision for those present in the same house but unable to be present in the chapter room due to ill health indicating that her or his written vote may be sought by the tellers.

Sr. Bernadette Therese has personally consulted with the executive director and canon lawyer of RCRI, Sr. Sharon Euart, RSM to ask if electronic voting would be an acceptable option given the extraordinary circumstances posed by the pandemic. After reviewing our CCA Statutes, Sr. Sharon's opinion is that electronic voting is not acceptable and that the provision under canon law for presence in a canonical election applies to CCA. This opinion has been confirmed by CCA's canon lawyer, Nancy Reynolds, SP. In response to an inquiry from RCRI, Rome has issued guidance which allows for the postponement of elections for all religious institutes.

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

Your present LT will continue to make inquiries with competent authority as to what our options might be so that we can have elections in a timely manner. The term of the new LT will be for 2 years and will begin from the day they are elected.

CCA Business Meetings

In the meantime, we will pursue CCA business via ZOOM, which will cover reports and proposals from our membership during 2018-2020 term. These ZOOM meetings are open to all CCA members and will require the presence of the delegates of each community. With the exception of elections and voting on our revised Statutes, delegates will be able to vote anonymously on business proposals on the ZOOM meeting days.

Please keep your calendar open on **June 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.**

Check-in on each day at

1:00 p.m. Eastern; 12:00 Central; 10:00 a.m. Pacific time

The meetings will begin promptly at

1:30 p.m. Eastern; 12:30 Central; 10:30 a.m. Pacific time

Each day's meeting will be 2 hours with 30 minutes prior to the meeting to allow for check-in and troubleshooting any technological issues. Sr. Celia Ashton has graciously offered to provide her expertise to arrange for all the ZOOM meetings. In this connection, she is asking that **each community assign a technology liaison.**

Please submit the name of the sister for this role by **Monday, May 4**, to Sr. Celia at celia@ccacarmels.org.

We welcome any questions you may have.

United in prayer for our world,
Your LT

Bernadette Thiérou Monika Cecelia Roz