



May 1, 2020
St. Joseph the Worker

Dear Sisters,

As we honor St. Joseph today, let us follow the example of St. Teresa, in asking St. Joseph to assist us as we continue to work together as sisters and friends. We hope that this letter will begin to answer some of your questions.

CCA Business: Zoom schedule and Proposals

1. A reminder from our letter of 4-25-2020:
Please submit the name of the sister in your community to be trained by Sr. Celia Ashton for technical zoom assistance for your community by Monday, May 4, to Sr. Celia at celia@ccacarmels.org
2. Sr. Celia will be sending out a registration form and subsequent instructions for all who want to participate; delegates who will represent their community for voting only at these Zoom days will need to use their own computer; all others could share one or more computers.
3. Our hope is to continue a contemplative dialogue type of listening and discussing in our Zooms. Because there may be unexpected technological challenges, we have allotted an extra day (Friday June 12) for continuing dialogue or new business as needed. (See *Attachments*)

Proposals-attached

Please review with your community in preparation for dialogue at our Zooms.

Revision of Statutes and Introduction

We thank you for your thoughtful reflections, recommendations, edits and suggestions last Fall on the 2nd draft of updating our Statutes. There were two main issues of concern we heard from our communities: 1) the term of office and 2) when to vote on updated statutes. As a result of your comments we did both an oral poll via phone with each prioress and a community vote earlier this year.

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

Regarding the term of office, your chapter responses have made it clear: 10 out of 11 communities prefer a 2-year term of office for our Leadership Team (president and councilors). You will see this reflected in what we hope would be our final updating of our Statutes. We are also attaching the most recent revision of the Introduction to our Statutes along with the prior revision, the 1993 original and comments sent to us by 3 communities.

Although 6 out of 10 communities indicated in writing that they would prefer to vote after the assembly, there is other information to consider. We have heard that several Federations and Associations have already submitted their updated Statutes and have had them approved. Several requested and were granted 3-year term of office. To our knowledge no one has requested a 2-year term.

In previous correspondence with the OCD Generalate over a year ago, we were advised not to rush to revise and submit our updated statutes. However, here is recent recommendation from Fr. Rafal:

"Date: Wed, Mar 4, 2020 at 4:11 PM
Subject: R: Questions on Updating Statutes
To: Sr Bernadette Therese, OCD sbtocdcca@gmail.com

Dear Sr. Bernadette Therese,

*I said no need to rush with the updating your statutes but it does not mean that this process should be delayed too much. I think that waiting [an]other two years is too much and especially it is not justified. There are several Associations that have already updated their statutes. If the statutes are not approved by the Assembly, they must be approved by each community with the chapter act. No virtual approval. You can discuss on the statutes via ZOOM and introduce all the changes you consider opportune. But at the end the approval must be done in one of two possible forms:
the voting within the Assembly or the chapter acts of all the member communities.*

With very warm fraternal greetings, Rafal"

Please look carefully at the attached revision of our Statutes and be prepared to dialogue and ask questions during our June Zoom. Nancy Reynolds has volunteered to be present at this Zoom to answer any questions sisters may have. She is working on strong rationales for the exceptions to Cor orans that we have included in our revision.

It had been our hope that we would not have to hand on work to the new Leadership Team unexpectedly brought us by Cor orans. However, some work will definitely overlap. We are asking you to be open to considering a vote on the revised Statutes "sooner rather than later" so that they may be initially submitted to the Holy See.

From the experience of the UK, their revised statutes will not be approved with the wording of three years of temporary vows, nor until they include a Religious Assistant. Sr. Mary Clare of MQC also wrote Archbishop Carballo of CICALSAL directly and presented several reasons to justify an exemption from the requirement of a religious assistant. AB Carballo responded graciously but insisted that no exemptions for any association will be allowed regarding the religious assistant.

We have been advised to be prepared by discussing a Religious Assistant among ourselves and select an OCD friar with whom we have good relations and have assurance of his willingness to serve on our behalf. Our Friday Zoom time may be an opportunity to explore this together.

Summary

Unavoidably this has been a longer and more detailed letter than usual. And, even more attachments! Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please accept our apology for misspelling the last name of Sr. Shirley Ahern in our previous LT letter.

We are blessed that, with Women at the Well Dialogues, we began to use Zoom, get more comfortable with it, and experience its benefits long before many people even knew it existed, nor knew they might need it for connections. Now we look forward to our June Zooms with renewed energy and hope.

During this most unusual Easter Season may we be even more united in love and care for one another and for all who are experiencing personal losses due to Covid-19.

United in prayer for our world,
Your LT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernadette Thiers Roz Monaha Cecelia".

Attachments:

- 1) LT letter on Proposals, Zoom, Statutes
- 2) CCA Business Schedule June 8-12
- 3) Proposals: Newer Members; W@WD; Interim Business Meetings via ZOOM
(*Proposal for Shared Services Collaborative will come later*)
- 4) LT Proposal for Affirming Goals
- 5) Revised updating of Statutes 4-30-2020
- 6) Revised Introduction to Statutes 4-30-2020