

## **Report on CCA Archives project---Bon Secours---April 20, 2018**

Several ways to approach this report. But in the interest of our “newer members,” the configuration of this assembly and our approaching 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I will begin with a short historical note, using archival documents.

### **Foundation of CCA---1970**

To follow up on previous meetings held in the United States regarding federation and association, several communities of our Nuns planned a meeting to discuss these issues. It was held here in Marriottsville, MD, January 29- February 2, 1970. This assembly was supported by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, archbishop of Baltimore, and had in attendance Fr. Christopher Latimer, OCD, of our friars. Twenty-four monasteries of our Nuns in the USA sent representatives.

The result was the election of a 5-member interim committee of nuns to plan next steps. There emerged from much work and collaboration a meeting held in Richfield, Ohio, at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of St Augustine, May 26- June 3, 1971. Here the participating communities and sisters presented papers on the Carmelite charism---seventeen papers in all on the foundations of our life in the tradition and how this legacy might be interpreted for the future. Cleveland’s diocesan newspaper reported that there were 114 sisters at this meeting representing 23 Carmels. The following year, March 20-28, 1972, the communities met again to form the structure of the association, whose name became CCA. The working papers and liturgies from this meeting demonstrate the vision and energy of the sisters. From “statements of meaning,” gleaned from our lived experience and history, we went on to develop principles, goals and ways of functioning based on collaboration, mutual respect, diversity and desires for communion in friendship with one another.

The archival materials of the past forty years plus reveal and portray the implementation of our hopes, some deferred dreams and an abundance of leadership and service from the member communities.

### **Practical Aspects---not an exhaustive list**

- sorting papers and documents continues always
- investigation into programs for archival materials is underway as well as good housing for the collection
- intellectual control of the records is a priority
- procedures for how items come to the archives needs further development

### **Hopes**

Over the next couple of years, before our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CCA, I hope to see some significant work and organization happening. But working part-time is a challenge. Dreams and hopes, however, move beyond challenge.

1) Sr Rita Donahue, who just died in Beacon, collected many oral histories from the oldest sisters in CCA when she was part of the CCA history committee. While these tapes are confidential, they need to be put into another form for easy access and preservation. I think it might be possible also to find some words in them to use for reflection, instruction and inspiration.

2) The desire for self-determination of the nuns has been part of CCA's dream, itinerant heart and documentation since the beginning. This has come to partial realization through our connections with our international sisters and the joint efforts at Chapters, Federation meetings and other meetings. The archives also show extensive correspondence with Carmelite federations and associations through the years. Since 1976 we have welcomed sisters from other countries to our meetings and these bonds have been significant and consoling in understanding our Carmelite goals and hopes for the future.

3) More recently there have been Tri-Association meetings in this country and, with the General's meeting last spring, collaboration among the four associations and other sisters in the U. S. Reports and photos from all these connections and endeavors are held as records in our archival collection.

4) Figure out ways to get more work done.

Respectfully submitted,

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