

Revised Introduction to Statues (4-30-2020)

Our Association was originally formed in 1970 in response to the need and desire for unity among our member Carmels and to the call of Vatican II for the renewal and adaptation of religious life. Our unity is rooted in the Gospel and our Carmelite heritage, and it flows from sisterly love and respect for one another in our differences. By virtue of our vocation and mission in the Church, we collaborate in the work of constant renewal through study and sharing in order to foster wholehearted fidelity to our Teresian charism. Our goals as an association will be carried out in accordance with the present Statutes, aiming always at mutual understanding and consensus among our member communities.

Previous information below for those who want to see the background

Idea which led to updating the 1993 Introduction

from an email of 8-19-19 from Barb Losh clarifying what Cleveland suggested regarding updating Introduction:

“If I had more time, I would try to send you some concrete suggestions for the Introduction. As it is, I can say two things: the tone of the time of renewal when our communities were much younger and our focus was expressed differently no longer rings quite true. It could be updated to better reflect our current reality. The other and most important thing is to emphasize that our values of sisterly love, understanding and respect for one another in our differences, and common commitment to our charism are fundamental to giving life to our association and to the structures set forth in the by-laws.”

Initial updating 9-8-19 Proposed new Introduction to CCA Statutes

On February 2, 1970 an Association of Carmelite Nuns was formed in the United States. The primary aim and purpose was to deepen and develop the Teresian contemplative life in the contemporary church and world in response to the call of Vatican II for the renewal and adaptation of religious life.

Several years later we formally named ourselves Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA). Our Association grew out of a desire to respond to the Holy See's directives regarding federation of contemplative communities for the purpose of communion, collaboration and mutual assistance. We developed a 'Charter of Life,' programs for initial and ongoing formation, and grew in unity and in mutual acceptance of our diversity. The values of sisterly love, understanding, mutual respect, and our common commitment to the Teresian charism are fundamental to giving life to our Association and to the structures set forth in these Statutes.

As our member communities face the challenges of contemplative religious life in the 21st century, we are fully committed to living our Carmelite charism and Gospel values. We renew our vitality through deepening our relationships with each other by way of online and in-person meetings, strengthening mutual practical support, nurturing unity and collaboration with the Carmelite family, and reflecting the prophetic voice of the

Carmelite charism in our witness of faith and hope in the Triune God.

Feedback on above 9-8-19 Updating of Introduction to CCA Statutes

Boston:

Re the Cleveland Introduction: We prefer the simplicity of the original (1993), but would like to see the last sentence in the 2nd paragraph of Cleveland's included.

"The values of sisterly love...." We didn't like the idea of beginning with a date. There was also the feeling that the introduction should be 'timeless/classic' rather than trying to make it speak to "our current reality" Re the original: In the 3rd sentence, the word 'corporate' used after collaborative is repetitive, and in the last sentence it is unnecessary. This sentence could begin with "Within the one Teresian charism...."

Latrobe:

On February 2, 1970 an Association of Carmelite Nuns was formed in the United States. **The primary aim and purpose was to deepen and develop the Teresian contemplative life in the contemporary church and world** in response to the call of Vatican II for the renewal and adaptation of religious life. **This doesn't seem historically accurate, since the 1993 introduction states otherwise. It is overlaying present "concepts" on an historical situation. The primary purpose was for "the need and desire for unity". We hadn't gotten to: "was to deepen and develop the Teresian contemplative life in the contemporary church and world" just yet. We suggest omitting all but the first sentence and adding it to the paragraph below:**

Several years later we formally **named ourselves** ("became"?) Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA).

Beacon:

Words: **in the proposed introduction**, we'd like to see in par.2 third line, **omit mention of "communion"** since that was not how we expressed ourselves at first, then insert it in the third paragraph "deepening our communion.." since that is how we talk now.

Changes: in 2nd par. of the introduction, **omit mention of the Charter of Life.** That was one particular program and there are others not mentioned. Have the sentence read, "We developed programs for ..."

1993 Introduction to CCA Statutes

This Association was formed in response to the need and desire for unity which we, the member Carmels, experienced as we endeavored to respond to the call of Vatican II for the renewal and adaptation of religious life. Our unity is rooted in the Gospel and our Carmelite heritage, and it flows from a basic understanding, love and acceptance of each sister and member community. By virtue of our common source, vocation, and mission in the Church, we collaborate in the work of renewal through corporate effort, study and sharing. Recognizing a sound pluralism within the one Teresian charism, we offer to share our unity with all our sisters, and thus be in the Order, the Church and the world a corporate witness of love, reconciliation and unity in Christ.