

# ***STATUTES***

***for the***

***Association known as***

***CARMELITE COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATED***

***Under the patronage of***

***The Holy Spirit***

## **INTRODUCTION**

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 in our Carmelite heritage, and it flows from a basic understanding, love and acceptance of each sister and each 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.

**STATUTES**  
**for the**  
**ASSOCIATION OF**  
**DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS**  
**in the**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**OF NORTH AMERICA**  
**known as**  
**CARMELITE COMMUNITIES**  
**ASSOCIATED**  
**under the**  
**PATRONAGE OF THE**  
**HOLY SPIRIT**

## **I. NATURE**

1. Carmelite Communities Associated is composed of the Monasteries of the Order of Discalced Carmelite Nuns listed in the Degree of Erection, given by the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. It is a juridical person of pontifical right, governed by these Statutes.

2. The member Monasteries of the Association remain juridically autonomous. They are each governed by their own Prioress, who is a Major Superior. They are subject to the Holy See and to their local Ordinary in accordance with Common Law, and also to the Regular Superior for those Monasteries under the jurisdiction of the Order.

3. In order to join the Association, a two-thirds vote of the Chapter of the Monastery and the acceptance by the Council of the Association are necessary. The petition is to be forwarded by the Chairperson to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life, which will decide about the admission. The Chairperson will notify the Superior General that the petition was presented to the Congregation.

4. Withdrawal from the Association requires serious reasons and two-thirds vote of the Chapter of the Monastery. The petition is to be sent to the Chairperson of the Association, who after hearing the opinion of the Council, will forward it to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for decision. She will likewise inform the Superior General about the petition for withdrawal.

## **II. AIM AND PURPOSE:**

5. The primary aim and purpose of the Association is to deepen and develop the Teresian Carmelite life in the contemporary Church and world.

6. To accomplish this primary aim, in accordance with the norms concerning enclosure, the member monasteries will:

a) Encourage fidelity to the Teresian charism and the exigencies of our contemplative life of prayer in solitude in accordance with our Rule, constitutions and the documents of the Holy See.

b) Foster study and increased understanding of Carmelite spirituality and history, and share prayerful reflections and experience related to present-day living of the Teresian spirit.

c) promote unity through communication and collaboration among the member monasteries of the Association and the Order of Carmel.

d) provide mutual aid when necessary in the form of personnel, materials and financial help.

e) Provide effective representation with properly constituted authorities.

### **III. ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **A. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*7. The General Assembly is the meeting of the Nuns, whose task is to elect the Chairperson and the Council and to deal with the important business of the Association.*

*8. The General Assembly receives the recommendations of the member Monasteries and makes decisions of the Association in accordance with its aims and goals.*

*9. The members of the General Assembly are:*

- a) The Chairperson and the council*
- b) The Prioress of each member Monastery*
- c) One elected delegate from each member Monastery*

*10. The Chapter of each Monastery shall elect the delegate by an absolute majority vote in the first or second ballot; by a relative vote in the third ballot. Only those may be elected, who enjoy active and passive voice in their own Monastery. A Prioress, who is unable to attend, may appoint a solemnly professed sister from her community to take her place.*

*11. The General Assembly shall convene in ordinary session every two years.*

*12. An extraordinary Assembly may be convoked for important and urgent reason at the request of at least two-thirds of the member Monasteries, expressed through the favorable deliberative vote of their respective Chapters.*

*13. The General Assembly cannot proceed with its elections and deliberations unless all the members have been convoked and at least two-thirds of them are present.*

*14. The autonomy of the member Monasteries is always to be respected in the decisions of the General Assembly and in the implementation of these decisions by the Chairperson and the Council.*

*15. Annual dues, in an amount determined by the General Assembly, will be solicited from the member Monasteries to defray the operation expenses of the Association.*

## **B. THE COUNCIL**

*16. The Council is composed of the Chairperson and three elected members, who hold office for two years. At the time of elections, an alternate member is elected. If a vacancy occurs in the Council, the alternate becomes an active member of the Council.*

*17. The mode of election is that prescribed for the election of the Prioress in the constitutions of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns.*

*18. The Chairperson promotes unity amount the member communities by listening to and respecting their insights and ideas. She organizes the General Assembly with the assistance of the Councilors. She fosters the aims and purposes of the Association, as set forth in these Statutes.*

*19. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Council, is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. They will carry out this function by various means of communication and by meeting when necessary.*

#### **IV. REVISION OF THE STATUTES**

*20. These Statutes may be amended with the consent of two-thirds of the member Monasteries and the approval of the Holy See.*





