
CCA Proposal

SUBJECT: *Women at the Well Dialogues*

Date: March 1, 2020

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The objective of *Women at the Well Dialogues* was to create on-going formation dialogue sessions open to all CCA members. These dialogues were in response to encouragement from Pope Francis' Apostolic Constitution *Vultum Dei Quaerere*; Fr. Saverio's Formal Proposal on on-going formation of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns (Feb., 2016); Fr. Saverio's letter to nuns on formation (July 16, 2012), and the CCA Newer Members proposal, approved at the 2018 CCA assembly, for a virtual program of on-going formation.

The *Women at the Well Dialogues* Project Team, Sr. Claire (Reno), Sr. Celia (Baltimore) and Elizabeth McCabe (consultant) were delegated by the CCA Leadership Team to create on-line formation Sessions for our CCA membership. Between January of 2019 and February of 2020, five Sessions were hosted on-line using ZOOM technology. We used a 90 minute format allowing for maximum time in small-group sharing. CCA sisters served as facilitators and note-takers. The Kirkintilloch sisters were invited to participate in Sessions 4 & 5 of this pilot program.

RATIONALE:

The rationale behind *Women at the Well Dialogues* was to address the need for ongoing formation for the renewal of our charism in the 21st century and to develop leadership skills among our sisters. An average of 59 out of 105 CCA sisters (based on 2015 census) from 11 of our 12 Carmels participated in 5 *Women at the Well Dialogues* Sessions; an unprecedented rate of participation in a CCA ongoing formation initiative. A rich diversity of perspectives was made possible by the inclusion of sisters unable to attend in-person events.

Evaluations and feedback were a central element of the pilot program, providing insights that were then integrated into future Session formats and themes. Additionally, in-depth debriefs with key groups (ie. LT and Newer Members) offered opportunities for deeper insights. *Women at the Well Dialogues* has laid the groundwork for the use of technology in future CCA work and programs now that the membership has experienced technology as an effective means of communication, dialogue and relationship-building.

PROPOSAL:

- 1) We propose continuing *Women at the Well Dialogues*.
- 2) We recognize that *Women at the Well Dialogues* now fits under the umbrella of the *Cor Orans* role of the Association Formators. If approved by the assembly, *Women at the Well Dialogues* will be incorporated into the larger on-going formation initiatives of CCA in dialogue with the Leadership Team and the Association Formators.
- 3) Budgeting for *Women at the Well Dialogues* will be considered in conjunction with all other CCA formation initiatives.

SUBMITTED BY: Sr. Claire & Sr. Celia representing the W@W Dialogues Project Team

PRESENTER(s) at ASSEMBLY: W@WDialogues Project Team: Sr. Claire, Sr. Celia & Elizabeth McCabe