**MEETING OF OCD FRIARS PROVINCIAL COUNCILS**

**AND OCD NUNS ASSOCIATION COUNCILS**

Wednesday, September 19

Lake Dallas, TX

Attendees:

Oklahoma Province:

1. Fr. Stephen Sanchez
2. Fr. Luis J. Castañeda
3. Fr. Jorge Cabrera
4. Fr. Raul Reyes
5. Fr. Bonaventure Sauer

California-Arizona Province:

1. Fr. Adam Gonzales
2. Fr. Philip Sullivan
3. Fr. Matthew Williams
4. Fr. Thomas Reeves

Washington:

1. Fr. Jude Peters
2. Fr. Elijah Martin
3. Fr. Phillip Thomas
4. Fr. Ralph-Elias Haddix
5. Fr. Donald Brick

Carmelite Communities Associated (CCA):

1. Sr. Rosalind Forrest – Reno Carmel
2. Sr. Cecelia Kang – Reno Carmel
3. Sr. Monika Bies – Baltimore Carmel
4. Sr. Bernadette Thérèse Huang - Boston Carmel

Mary Queen of Carmel (MQC):

1. Sr. Corinne Uher – San Antonio Carmel
2. Sr. Ruth Myriam – Piedmont Carmel
3. Sr. Mary Clare Trolley – Terra Haute Carmel
4. Sr. Teresita Maria – Alhambra Carmel
5. Sr. Magdalene Teresa – Zephyr Carmel (Ontario, Canada)
6. Sr. Susan – Shoreline, Washington Carmel

Sr. Bernadette Thérèse, coordinator of the CCA, gave a summary of the history of meetings between OCD Nuns and OCD Friars. A handout was given. The clarification was made that our present meeting is not the same kind of previous ones that Friars and Nuns have had together. The meetings these days are primarily of the Friars’ Provincial Councils. An invitation was extended to the Councils of the Nuns Associations for them to give us an update of their situation and share input. There was a lack of clarity in this matter. The joint meetings of Friars and Nuns are named *Collaboration of Nuns and Friars* (CNF). Fr. Adam suggested merging the two kinds of meetings. That is, to gather for several days, the nuns meet for two days, Friars and Nuns for two days, and the Friars meet for two days. The amount of days can vary according to what is needed. This way we save travel time as opposed to have the Friars and Nuns meetings on different dates. These meetings can be once every triennium. Next one would be September 2121. The Nuns will discuss if they can host the next meeting. Otherwise, the California-Arizona Friars will host it. All Nuns Associations will be invited. These meetings will be JMNF (Joint Meetings of Nuns and Friars).

Revision of Carmelite Liturgical Books (Breviary, Lectionary, Missal)

We need to keep in mind new translations of the regular breviary is in process. A digital copy can be prepared where changes can be easily made. An OCDS from Minnesota (Lany Small) has prepared a digital copy we can use as a start. Another OCDS from North Carolina also has something prepared. The Friars will decide on the members of the committee to do this work. Sr. Ruth Myriam (Piedmont Carmel) and the Terra Haute Carmel offered to assist with proof reading.

Fr. Adam read a letter from Sr. Celeste, coordinator of the St. Teresa Association, expressing appreciation and gratitude for the invitation to the meeting, and their interest in future opportunities for collaboration among Nuns and Friars, especially in the area of formation.

Formation for Formators

There’s still around $7,000 in the account for these events. The Program will be done again. Sr. Mary Clare suggested Kevin McClone as a resource to offer human formation to formators. Sr. Rosalind suggested another area for formators to be formed in could be understanding today’s culture. Fr. Bonaventure shared some reflections of the conferences he attended regarding modern people’s disaffiliation from religious institutions. He mentioned the book *Going, going, gone* as a good resource on this topic.

Associations Coordinators and Provincials can meet via Zoom to organize and put together a syllabus and present it to the committee to give them direction. They will appoint the committee members.

Sr. Bernadette Thérèse recommended Elizabeth McCabe as a resource to teach methodology or pedagogy.

Common blog or website

We would like to create a kind of blog to share conferences and resources for formation. The cost can be shared among Provinces and Associations. Resources we presently have in older form (cassettes, CD’s, etc.) should be put in digital form before they deteriorate. Fr. Bonaventure will ask Cielito about these matters. He also shared some information about the need for privacy regulations and policies in our websites.

New ways to collaborate

We shared on the importance of building relationships among Nuns and Friars in both formal and informal settings. Nuns and Friars freely expressed their experience of appreciation and challenges with and of each other.

During the meeting of Friars and Nuns, Sr. Rosalind passed out a sample of a proposed common calendar. Although there was no vote on this, it seemed to be favorably received, especially when Sr. Rosalind clarified that she would be willing to update it as soon as any changes or new meeting dates, etc. were sent to her.  Until the common website is  resurrected in some way, she is willing to send updated copies to each Provincial and Coordinator of Associations and an occasional reminder to send her information.

Religious Assistant for each Nuns Associations as mentioned by *Cor Orans*

It is not yet clear if this is required. The Associations are thinking to submit their statutes and see what the response from the Holy See is. Fr. General interprets it as not being required. These may be more for other Congregations that don’t have the support of a male branch. The heads of Associations could write the Holy See to clarify the matter. The religious assistant could be a help, but he needs to understand the nature of his position so as to assist and not interfere.