

Opening Remarks June 8 2020 CCA Virtual General Assembly
Sr. Bernadette Therese

It is a joy for me to welcome each of you to this week's CCA zoom business meetings. We had hoped for a big celebration of our 50th anniversary and certainly did not plan things this way but here we are and we can count among our blessings in disguise the fact that many, many more sisters than we could have hoped for at an in-person meeting are participating at this meeting. Together, we will discuss our life and our future as CCA.

I feel that the zoom meetings we have had over the last year and a half for Women at the Well Dialogues have providentially prepared us well for this week's virtual gatherings. Just as in those meetings, let us pray that these days will be graced gatherings, filled with the Holy Spirit's presence and directed by her leadings.

In this last term, CCA has had to confront many new challenges - Cororans, the reality of affiliations, the continuing fragility of some of our communities and questions on how we might work together and support each other. I feel that together, we have met these challenges with a healthy sense of reality, with creative fidelity, with courage and with love. As members of CCA, we are discovering a new way of unity, a way of being a community among communities. And just as St. Teresa overcame great obstacles in establishing Carmel, we forge ahead carrying in our hearts the same love and passion for Carmel that she transmitted to us.

Carmel's history continues to be written by us, its members today. As we write that history this week, we recall how St. Teresa encouragingly reminds her daughters in every age that you, we, are beginning now. As we journey together this week toward God's future for us, I encourage your full participation through honest sharing and deep, respectful listening, marks of true contemplative dialogue which I hope will set the tone of our conversations.

We open our meeting with a prayer offered by Sr. Mary Fleig. As we pause and pray together, we remember and are in solidarity with those who continue to suffer the scourge of racial injustice. May the unity and love among us contribute to the healing of so much that divides our country and our world. Thank you.

Thank you so much for being here and for your desire to journey together as sisters and to contribute to shaping CCA's future. We journey with hope and place ourselves in the loving hands of our God who through the words of the prophet Jeremiah assures us of God's plans to prosper us... plans to give us hope and a future. Thank you.