

History of US OCD Tri-Council/ Tri Provincial Meetings

First Meeting: October 1-5, 2001 Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House Lake Dallas, Texas

This meeting of friars and nuns in the United States was called by Fr. Camilo Maccise, OCD, Superior General, and organized by Fr. Ulrich Dobhan, OCD, General Definitor and Moderator of the Secretariat for the Nuns. The following friars and nuns were present:

FRIARS

Fr. Ulrich Dobhan, OCD, Definitor General
Fr. Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, OCD, Definitor General

California-Arizona Province

Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD, Provincial

Oklahoma Province

Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, Provincial
Fr. Raphael Kitz, OCD, Novice Master

Washington Province

Fr. Jude Peters, OCD
Provincial

NUNS

Carmelite Communities Associated

Sr. Annamae Dannes, OCD, Coordinator
Sr. Marjorie Robinson, OCD
Sr. Angela Pikus, OCD

Mary, Queen of Carmel Association

Sr. Margaret Mary Flynn, OCD, Coordinator
Sr. Maria Valla, OCD
Sr. Therese Lane, OCD

St. Teresa's Association

Sr. Mary Joseph, OCD, Coordinator
Sr. Mercedes Martinez, OCD

The purpose of the three-day meeting was to explore ways that the friars might be of assistance to the nuns, as proposed in **Begin Always Anew**, the document from the General Chapter held in Lisieux in 1997. That document has been the basis for meetings throughout the Order of friars and nuns, including this present gathering. The excerpt follows:

5. SERVICE TO OUR DISCALCED CARMELITE SISTERS

- 105.** It was the desire of Holy Mother Teresa that there would exist a unity between friars and nuns in the same family. The changes in society and the Church in relation to women invite us to continue this relationship in a renewed way, by no means any less profound and fraternal because of this. In this regard the following suggestions could be of help:
- a. Aware of the new role of women in society and the Church, to continue our apostolic ministry to the nuns in a spirit of co-responsibility and mutual collaboration, and to encourage the Church's recommendation to form Associations and Federations.
 - b. Encourage a regular relationship between the Centre of the Order and the Assistants to the Federations and Associations.
 - c. Fr. General and the Definitors should continue to visit all the Federations, Associations and groupings of monasteries in as far as possible.
 - d. To take care that our friars are trained to relate with the nuns in the new, less individualistic style, with a respectful approach to their autonomy and a desire for reciprocal help and cooperation.
 - e. Particularly for those who minister to the nuns, to organize meetings and training seminars to reflect on their experience and to help one another.

- f. Remain open at every level so that the nuns can take part in our discussions and, if it be opportune, to invite them to official discussions that concern them in some way or other.

See also Second Part, chapter 5, "Fraternal Assistance to Our Discalced Carmelite Sisters" (pages 30-33).

Second Meeting: September 25—29, 2002 Holy Hill, Wisconsin

This meeting was a follow-up to the meeting in Dallas (October 2001), which had been called by Fr. Camilo Maccise, OCD, Superior General, and organized by Fr. Ulrich Dobhan, OCD, General Definitor and Moderator of the Secretariat for the Nuns. At Dallas last year, it was proposed that we continue what was begun and that subsequent meetings would include the three U.S. association councils and the three U.S. provincials with their vicars.

Due to an unexpected emergency, Fr. Ralph Reyes, OCD, provincial of the Oklahoma Province, and Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, OCD, past provincial, were unable to be present at Holy Hill. the following friars and nuns were present:

FRIARS:

California-Arizona Province

Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD, Provincial

Washington Province

Fr. Jude Peters, Provincial

Fr. Michael Dodd, Delegate to the Nuns

NUNS

Carmelite Communities Associated

Sr. Annamae Dannes, OCD

Sr. Marjorie Robinson, OCD

Sr. Judy Murray, OCD

Sr. Roseann Gillice, OCD

St. Teresa's Association

Sr. Mary Joseph, OCD, Coordinator

Sr. Mercedes Martinez, OCD

Mother Mary Joseph, OCD

Sr. Michael, OCD

Queen of Carmel Association

Sr. Maria Valla, OCD, Coordinator

Sr. Mary Clare Trolley, OCD

Sr. Margaret Mary Flynn, OCD

Sister Teresa Ann, OCD

Agenda:

1. Spirituality of communion according to our charism
2. Fostering vocations
3. Initial formation
4. Ongoing formation (theological reflection)
5. Leadership Training
6. Directory of nuns and friars

Third Meeting: November 9-12, 2004 El Carmelo Retreat Center, Redlands, CA

This was the third meeting of friars and nuns in the U.S. When he was Superior General, Fr. Camilo Maccise, OCD, called upon Discalced Carmelites to explore ways of greater collaboration among friars and nuns.

Due to a visitation by Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD, General Definitor, Fr. Ralph Reyes, OCD, provincial of the Oklahoma Province, was unable to be present at Redlands. Therefore, the Oklahoma Province was not represented at this meeting.

The following friars and nuns were present:

FRIARS

California-Arizona Province

Fr. Gerald Werner, OCD, Provincial
Fr. Gilbert Levario, OCD, Councilor

Washington Province

Fr. Jude Peters, OCD, Provincial
Fr. Bonaventure Lussier, OCD, Councilor

NUNS

Queen of Carmel Association

Sr. Maria Valla, OCD, Coordinator
Sr. Yvonne Hanke, OCD
Sr. Mary Clare Trolley, OCD
Sr. Angel Sweeney, OCD
Sister Teresa Ann Larimer, OCD

Carmelite Communities Associated

Sr. Annamae Dannes, OCD, Coordinator
Sr. Marjorie Robinson, OCD
Sr. Judy Murray, OCD
Sr. Roseann Gillice, OCD
Sr. Mary Lavin, OCD

St. Teresa's Association

Sr. Michael Crimmins, OCD, Coordinator
M. Dawn Marie McCarthy, OCD
M. Teresita Flynn, OCD

Agenda:

- Formation program for Formators
- Website to foster vocations in the US for friars and nuns
- Theological reflection project
- Website for theological reflection project
- Directory of Friars and nuns
- Experience of having international visitors at nuns' monasteries
- Carmelite Calenda
- Report from Uganda
- Report from Nairobi
- Nun's foundation in Cameroon
- Care of the Elderly

NAME FOR THIS GROUP

Because this is only the third such gathering of friars and nuns, it has been awkward in knowing what to call the group! It includes the provincials, their councilors, delegates to the nuns, the association coordinators and their councils. Not every member of the group is in attendance at the meetings. For the present, we will simply refer to the group as: **COLLABORATION OF NUNS AND FRIARS (CNF).**

Note: There was a **February 2006 Formators Program Meeting** at Holy Hill of Provincials and Coordinators with representatives that were developing the proposed formator program

Fourth Meeting: April 16 to 29, 2007 Carmel Retreat Center, Mahwah NJ.

Organized by Mother Maria and Fr. Gerald Werner.

Note: There was another 2007 meeting in Oklahoma (at the Carmel) organized by Fr. Adam Gonzales, OCD pertaining to the Formators program.

Fifth Meeting: April 26 to 30, 2010 Oklahoma City

Sixth Meeting: May 21 to 24, 2013 La Salette Retreat/Conference Center, Attleboro, MA

Organized by the Nuns councils and participated in by Oklahoma province (Fr. Luis Castaneda and Fr. Bonaventure Sauer, and the CA province represented by Fr. Gerald Werner and Fr. Adam Gonzalez. WA province did not send representatives.

Agenda:

- Exploring the possibilities of collaborating and on planning mutual projects for the 5th centenary celebrations of St. Teresa.
- July 16th Letter from Fr. General.
- Religious Assistant for our Associations.
- Possible continuation of the Formators program.
- Report on the present status of the Carmelite Institute

Note: There was a meeting on March 1-5, 2015 in Darien, IL held to prepare for the 2015 General Chapter (May 2-24, 2015). All four US Nuns' associations and three provincials and their councils and delegates were present.

There was presumably supposed to be a meeting in 2016 but no one called the meeting most likely due to the fact that nuns and friars met in 2015 in preparation for General Chapter.