

DELEGATE'S COMMUNIO

| Dedicated to Carmelite Communion and Communication |

Charism

He told me that now was not the time for rest, but that I should hurry to establish these houses;

that He found his rest with the souls living in them;

that I should accept as many houses as given me since there were **many persons who did not serve Him because they had no place for it...**

(ST 6)

Legislation

The Carmelite Secular is called to live and witness the charism of the Teresian Carmel in the local Church

(OCDS Cons 27).

OCDS *Hispanos*

Western Province: OCDS Hispanos

I would like to introduce a new initiative for our Province.

The U.S. Church gives us the example in how to live in our California-Arizona Province. There is a growing need to respond to the sensitivities and needs of Hispanic OCDS members. The challenge is to achieve a delicate balance between integration of Hispanic members while embracing legitimate differences.

In order to foster the integration and the gift of Hispanic OCDS members, we will do the following:

1. We will set up **a Hispanic OCDS Committee** that will serve solely as an advisory committee and NOT as an authoritative committee. The Committee is comprised of the following persons (information will be on the ocds.info): Alicia Nuñez, OCDS of Tucson (nunalicia@hotmail.com); Sofia Tapia, OCDS of Seattle (bellaSTapia@live.com); and Maria de Jesus Bangan of Las Vegas (avemariao805@yahoo.com). They will serve as an advisory committee where questions and comments can be directed. They in turn will help keep the Provincial Delegate and OCDS Provincial Council informed.
2. There will be the first **OCDS Hispanic Retreat in Spanish** for training Hispanic leaders. It will take place at El Carmelo in Redlands, CA, on Jan 11-13, 2019 (Please cf. ocds.info for more information).
3. **Ongoing discussion and discernment.**

Once again, U.S. Church highlights the importance of being sensitive to the growing Hispanic population in the U.S., as a country and as a Church. As Carmelites, this challenges us to diffuse our Carmelite charism among Hispanics. It is equally important to maintain unity while celebrating legitimate differences (This further challenges us to look at other cultures present in the U.S. and how we respond to them).

Scripture

⁸You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

(Acts 1:8).

⁴And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim....

Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?

(Acts 2:4,7-8)

U.S. Signs of the Times

With the beginning of Pentecost of this year, the Church approved the official use of the first 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal (R.M.) in Spanish for the United States Church. It is obligatory as of Advent of this year.

This is significant for the life of the U.S. Church.

The U.S. Spanish R.M. is an affirmation that there is one Church in the U.S. yet with two legitimate expressions of her liturgy. The U.S. Spanish R.M. shows an inculturation into the U.S. context while at the same time enriching it.

While *the 3rd Edition the R.M. in English expanded the beauty of the Roman liturgy in the English language, **the U.S. Spanish R.M. expands the beauty of the Roman liturgy in the U.S.*** (The U.S. Spanish R.M. is not a literal translation from the U.S. English R.M.). In places where the U.S. liturgy has no options for certain liturgical texts, options are now offered thus preserving some of the richness of the Roman liturgy in Spanish.

The significance of the U.S. Spanish R.M. is important as well in the context of what is known as the "V Encuentro" (the fifth encounter) (<https://vencuentro.org/encuentros/>). On the website we can find the following explanations of this event in the life of the U.S. Church:

"The main objective of the process of the Encuentro is to discern the way in which Hispanics/Latinos respond as Church."

"Encuentros have been the backbone during the growth of Hispanic/Latino ministry; they have given us the opportunity to interpret and to project into the future our own identity, presence, and contribution to the Church and to U.S. society as a whole."

What is important is the U.S. Church seeking to preserve the unity of the Church while embracing Hispanic culture as gift. This is achieved by respecting cultural sensitivities, acknowledging legitimate needs, and accepting legitimate responses.

Conclusion

Brothers and sisters in Carmel, let me conclude.

Just as the U.S. Church is now enriched by the U.S. Spanish R.M., so too will our California-Arizona Province be enriched by Hispanic OCDS members - if we are open to the promptings, guidance, and creativity of the Holy Spirit.