
DELEGATE'S COMMUNIO

| Dedicated to Carmelite Communion and Communication |

Scripture

The Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears (Jn 16:13).

Legislation

There are **extremes** that distort the autonomy given to the Secular Order: **either excessive independence or excessive dependence** on the part of the seculars; and on the part of the friars either lack of interest or desire to control.

...there is the **failure to develop the lay members of the Order to the stature and responsibility that the Church and the Order wish them to have.** The Secular Order therefore remains trapped in a model that will not serve to present the Secular Order as adult and capable of representing to the world the spirituality of Carmel. *(Pastoral Care of the Secular Order, Prologue).*

Spiritual Assistant (Part II)

Follow-Up

With this *Communio*, I would like to continue and conclude the process for the appointment of Spiritual Assistants (SA).

As a review, please make reference to the May *Communio*. Let me reiterate the process I outlined previously:

Process Outlined in May

1. **Three Months Discernment**. The local council discerns together. They include this topic in their council meeting(s). I ask that you do this by reviewing what the Constitutions and Statutes say about the SA. And then discuss what options are available, what best serves your community and why. Agree together. I ask that this discussion and discernment be completed by August 15.
2. **Consultation with the Delegate**. Around August 15, the Delegate will begin (with the help of the Regional Representatives) contacting the different communities. We will consult with the local councils about their proposed SA and their reasons for the selection. For some this will be a quick process, for others a longer process. For non-friars, if it seems appropriate, a further conversation will take place with those proposed SA to ensure they are suitable. There is no strict timeline at this stage. Each community or group will have the time they need to appoint a SA.
3. **Official Letter**. The final step will be for the Provincial Delegate to send a signed letter to the local community, the appointed SA, and to save a copy in the Central Office files.

Charism

Holy Father
St. John of the Cross
Living Flame of Love

3,28. In the first place it should be known that if anyone is seeking God, **the Beloved is seeking that person much more.**

3.46. These directors should reflect that they themselves are not the chief agent, guide, and mover of souls in this matter, but **the principal guide is the Holy Spirit, who is never neglectful of souls**, and they themselves are instruments for directing these souls to perfection through faith and the law of God, according to the spirit given by God to each one.

Thus the whole concern of directors should not be to accommodate souls to their own method and condition, but they should **observe the road along which God is leading one**; if they do not recognize it, they should leave the soul alone and not bother it. And in harmony with the path and spirit along which God leads a soul, the spiritual director should strive to conduct it into greater solitude, tranquility, and freedom of spirit.

Next Steps....

This is what I would like to do next.

1. The New Form for the Appointment for Spiritual Assistants and the August *Communio* will be sent out together. (These will be available on the ocds.info)
2. I ask that all communities or groups that have **a friar** for a Spiritual Assistant be the first to complete the form and send it to me via PDF in an email. Please send it to me and copy your regional representative. I will then complete the form, make copies, and then complete a formal letter that will be sent to the SA. If there is an issue I will contact you.
3. I will then deal with the communities or groups that have a religious or a diocesan priests as SA. Same process as above. (Please await an email requesting these groups forms.)
4. Finally I will deal with those communities or groups that have no SA or have some kind of difficulty. The Provincial Delegate, the Regional Representative, and the local council will take the time to deal with the reality of the local community. (Please await an email requesting these groups forms.)

Conclusion

The point of this process, though it might be perceived as tedious and unnecessary, is to ensure that all communities are informed of how the Order is forming Seculars and desires them to live. As Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, OCD, (Our General Delegate) wrote me concerning the OCDS and the role of the SA: "It is important [to] awake in the [Seculars the awareness] that they can follow the documents and have the sense of their protagonism" (May 28, 2018). In other words, you are called to be informed, responsible and mature collaborators in your own Carmelite lives.

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Transfiguration 2018

NB. The document *Pastoral Care* is available online:

http://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/documents/ocds/pastoral-care_ocds_en/