

DELEGATE'S COMMUNIO

| Dedicated to Carmelite Communion and Communication |

Scripture

12 For if the eagerness is there, it is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have; 13 not that others should have relief while you are burdened, but that as a matter of equality 14 your surplus at the present time should supply their needs, so that their surplus may also supply your needs, that there may be equality. 15 As it is written: "Whoever had much did not have more, and whoever had little did not have less." (2 Cor 8:12-15)

Legislation

The Secular Carmelite also realizes and expresses communion through meeting and solidarity with other communities, especially within the same Province....

So, with this witness to communion...the Community of Secular Carmel cooperates with the evangelizing mission of the Church in the midst of the world (Const 24d)

Sister Carmels

St. Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians, "***as a matter of equality your surplus at the present time should supply their needs, so that their surplus may also supply your needs, that there may be equality***" (2 Cor 8). I believe this is an important principle to further Carmelite Communion.

We are already working on a model of regions. We also are witnessing the good fruits of this model. However, I want to take it further. It is my impression that we tend to operate on a "isolate" manner. That is to say, that communities sometimes exist in isolation. I do not believe that should be the case in Carmel.

I believe that communities within the same region, especially if they are neighboring communities, should seek communion, closer relations, mutual support, and especially the sharing of resources. If you have a strong community (in numbers, formation, leadership, gifts): how can you assist other communities? How can you share your talents and resources? Why would the Holy Spirit entrust you with "a surplus" at the present moment? If you have a struggling community: how can you be supported by a neighboring community? Can you be mentored in the area of leadership, formation, mission, community life? Can you invite members from other communities give a conference especially when you have no spiritual assistant?

The point being, according to Paul's principle, interpreted in the context of the OCDS, is that those communities who are in a moment of abundance to consider how they might help out those communities that are presently in a time of need. I call this "Sister Carmels". Who are your Sister Carmels?