



*“It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
To make music to your name, O Most High,  
To proclaim your love in the morning  
And your truth in the watches of the night.”*

Psalm 92

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This Congress Edition of the Carmel-Lights enables all of us who attended Congress 2018 to recall and reflect on this triennial event in the life of the Discalced Secular Carmel in Canada. The Lord without doubt sent many graces and blessings to each one in attendance at the Congress. Just viewing the congress photos warms the heart all over again. The fire is enkindled within!

We offer our deepest gratitude to Cardinal Thomas Collins for taking the time out of his extremely busy schedule to join us for the opening Eucharistic celebration. His encouragement and support for the life of the Secular Carmelite in today’s world without doubt stoked the fire within our hearts setting the tone of joy and celebration for the days of the congress.

Joining us from Rome was Fr Alzinir Debastiani, ocd, General Delegate to the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order. Fr Alzinir spoke to us on the teaching of St John of the Cross as a guide to the center of the soul which is God. It was such a beautiful presentation. Clearly Fr Alzinir has a profound understanding and fire within himself for this saint of Carmel which was evident in his reflection.

Our Provincial Fr Juan DeBono, ocd, travelled from Malta to join us for the 2018 Congress. It was the first time that all of us could meet our new Provincial in person. We are so grateful that Fr Juan was able to journey to Canada to visit the Secular Order. It was a wonderful visit! Fr Juan’s burning fire for the teaching of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity shone through his reflection on this newest saint of Carmel!

We are profoundly grateful to both Fr Alzinir and Fr Juan for taking the time to be in Canada for the 2018 Congress. Their presence surely enkindled the fire within us for our vocation as Secular Carmelites in today’s world.

We offer our deepest gratitude to the many priests and deacons who joined us for our Eucharistic celebrations over the three days. And what celebrations they were! Celebrations filled with the fire of the Spirit!

We would be remiss not to commend our dedicated Congress Planning Committee who worked tirelessly to make the Congress 2018 a joyful and memorable event for all of us.

Without our communities who contributed in so many and diverse ways to make the congress successful, we would not have had such an awesome weekend together. Members from our communities formed our fabulous choir, were readers, ushers, altar servers for our Eucharistic celebrations. Some communities contributed through sales tables to raise funds for the Congress, some supported our raffle by contributing the prizes, or bought tickets. Some acted as photographers so that we could hold the congress in our memories through their pictures. Flowers were gifted by two communities for the celebrations, and such beautiful flowers along our theme of fire!

We conclude with a very special word of thanks, to Canada’s own fiery prophet of Carmel, Fr Dominic, ocd. His love, wisdom, and passion for the Word of God support and encourage us on our Carmelite journey. Every day Fr Dominic strives to live Christ’s words in 12:49 “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled.”

With warmest regards and heartfelt thanks to one and all,

*Gladys McMullin, ocds*  
President, Secretariat