



“I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, are in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me”

John 17.20-22

June 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Everyone and every Secular Community of our Province are presently in a state of transition! The Easter Season this year not only renewed in us the joy of the Resurrection in our lives as Christians and Secular Carmelites but also called us forth to the renewal of our Communities through our triennial elections.

The season of Pentecost is now put before us by the Church. As the Secretariat receives the results of our community elections, it is self-evident that the Spirit once again has been brooding over the waters re-energizing, re-creating and renewing our Communities.

The Church teaches us that we, as Christian laity, must not hide the hope in our hearts but should give real expression to our hope in our secular lives both as Christians and Secular Carmelites. For us as Secular Carmelites this directive stands in the context of our prophetic function as Secular Carmelites in the Church and in the world.

Christian hope is the basis of all renewal. We witness to this through our own hopes and desires for our Communities to thrive and grow into the future. So many of you listened to the Spirit brooding over the waters, responding by your willingness to render service to your Community by taking the risk and having the courage to offer yourself in hope and love as your Community moves forward in the coming triennial period of the Secular Carmelite Order. This is a prophetic witness to our hope in our future no matter the challenges ahead.

Being “willing to learn together” as we face the many challenges ahead is absolutely a necessary attitude in the ongoing development of our Communities and our Province. If we infuse this attitude into our hearts it will bind us together as Community. As we share our faith, insights, joys, loves, our hopes, and our prayer each month, we will be brought to maturity as Christians and Carmelites.

Christ’s priestly prayer for community speaks of our oneness with Him and the Father, and each other in the union, the only union in which community is truly experienced in our lives.

Fraternally,

Gladys McMullin, ocds
President, Secretariat