

# DECLARATION ON THE CARMELITE-TERESIAN CHARISM

## Proposal for Community Reading and Reflection

The Declaration is the result of many years of laborious preparation, based on input from every Circumscription of the Order and final scrutiny and elaboration at the General Chapter of 2021. It was approved at this General Chapter and presented to all our Friars for study and assimilation as the current formulation of our charism.

With this in mind, we now propose that during 2022 all our communities will engage in meetings in order to assist our brethren in accepting and assimilating the text and deducing from it the necessary practical consequences. In this way too, the Declaration on our Charism can help and prepare upcoming Chapters as they decide on how to incorporate it into their respective Provincial programmes.

### A possible subdivision of the text for 8 meetings:

1. Introduction
  - I. Responding to a call (nn.1-3)
2. II. Charism and formation (nn.4-10)
3. III. Charism and Teresian vision of the Human Person (nn.11-20)
4. IV A. The life of prayer (nn.21-29)
5. IV B. Fraternity (nn.30-44)
6. IV C. Mission (nn.45-57)
  - IV D. Unity of prayer- fraternity- mission (nn.58-60)
7. V. Unity and diversity (nn.61-68)
8. (Practical application: Demands on Community and proposals for the Chapter)

We would suggest monthly meetings, but each Circumscription and each Community can be flexible with a cycle most convenient for itself. As an on-going aid to reflection, the Definitory will provide short videos in the usual four languages for each of the meetings. These will be published each 5<sup>th</sup> of the month on the YouTube channel of the Order [OCD Curia - YouTube](#).

### Working Plan for the Meetings

We earnestly recommend that, prior to every meeting, participants should read, not only the section proposed for that day, but also all the documents quoted as well (from our Saints, from the Order etc.). After watching the video, if it is deemed opportune, we suggest a number of questions that might serve as guidelines for the community reflection:

1. What is the actual significance of what has been read?
2. In what points can I identify the situation of my Community/Circumscription?
3. Where do I find, on the contrary, a more or less significant difference between the content expressed and the reality that I am experiencing in my life?
4. What are the reasons that I see – or presume – for such differences? How do I evaluate their importance?
5. What concrete steps can we take to comply more fully and faithfully with the charism here described?