



SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES
CORSO D'ITALIA, 38 - 00198 ROMA

LETTER TO THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS 2025-2026

Rome, November 19, 2025

Dear brothers,
May peace and hope be with you!

I am writing to all the Circumscriptions and Provinces of the Order ahead of the Chapters and Chapter Assemblies. In some regions, these will begin in November.

I thank God for this triennium, which is about to come to an end. I would like to thank all the Major Superiors, those in charge of circumscriptions, councillors, local superiors and all of you who are part of the provinces, commissariats, vicariates or delegations. Thank you for your dedication, generosity and commitment to living your vocation and serving others.

We entrust all the Chapters to the intercession of St John of the Cross, whose centenary celebrations (canonisation and elevation to Doctor of the Church) begin in December. May the Saint of Union, the Living Flame of Love, the Dark Night and Silent Love illuminate our path and accompany us at every moment of our assemblies and in the years to come.

I would like to share a few points with you that I hope will be the subject of your reflection and attention during the Chapter Assemblies.

1. Chapters and Capitular Assemblies: *to give thanks, evaluate and plan*

The Capitular Assembly should not primarily focus on electing Superiors and provincial offices. It is, above all, an opportunity to give thanks for what has been experienced during this period, recognise what has been accomplished, evaluate with a critical yet serene mindset, and develop, through constructive dialogue, a plan for the years to come. From the outset of the Chapter, it would be advisable to make all participants aware of the opportunity to study the situation of the Circumscription in depth and to plan the course of action and priority objectives for the future together. It is important to take the necessary time to discuss the various reports of the triennium without rushing.

- ✓ A realistic plan for the triennium should be drawn up, setting out priorities, objectives and means.

2. Map of presences and collaborations: *situation and prospects*

We are continuing the process of reflection and discernment on the situation of the Order in the world. Recognising our sense of belonging and our calling to build a family, we will consider our circumscription to take appropriate collaborative, unifying and reconfiguration

measures, either within our own circumscription or within the geographical region in which we are established. At its meeting in Lisieux in 2023, the Extraordinary Definitory approved and reduced the number of possible configurations for each circumscription of our Order to the following: Province, Vicariate and Commissariat. Based on this, you should ask yourselves: What is the current situation of my circumscription? What measures have been or should be taken?

- ✓ We will also need to consider what actions we have taken or should take in terms of collaboration, union and coordination.

3. *Constitutions*

It seems to me that the time has come to propose to the Order a revision of our *Constitutions*. This proposal is based on the need to rethink the language, theology and relevance of the Teresian charism and to translate it into a revised *Constitutions*. At the last General Chapter, we updated the *Norms of Application* in a simple and orderly way. Today, we should not be afraid to reflect on our identity, remaining faithful to the charism and deepening our understanding of what it means to be a Discalced Carmelite today. I ask the Chapters and Capitular Assemblies to pray and reflect on the appropriateness of this revision. This concerns not only the text of our *Constitutions*, but also provides an opportunity to reaffirm and deepen the meaning of our life and mission today, in all the contexts in which we find ourselves.

- ✓ A decision will have to be made on whether to revise our *Constitutions*.

4. The experience of God: *prayer and mystagogy*

Having focused in recent years on revitalizing the Marian life of our Order, I would like to invite you to evaluate this dimension and the progress that has been made. Based on this, we propose that the Provincial project of the Chapters includes a fundamental theme that we feel urgently needs to be revived: our experience of God, personal and communal mental prayer. The Carmelite is a mystagogue of a lived experience.

- ✓ How can we return to Teresian mental prayer and become mystagogues of this experience?

6. Centenary of St. John of the Cross

We have entered the centenary year of St. John of the Cross. It would be beneficial for the Chapter to reflect not only on the organized activities and events, but also on the interpretation and experience of the spirituality of St. John of the Cross in our current context and in the life of our communities. We could also evaluate the past three years of reading the writings of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, as proposed by the Generalate. We encourage you to participate in this community reading, alongside the texts on St. John of the Cross this year.

7. *Ratio Institutionis*

Formation is a priority theme of this sexennium. We are currently updating our *Ratio Institutionis*. I would like to thank all the Provinces, Superiors and Formators for recognizing the importance of discernment, the formation of formators, the accompaniment of persons in formation, the formative community and the follow-up after initial formation.

- ✓ You will need to evaluate your commitment to formation in the Circumscription.
- ✓ You will also need to update your particular *Ratio* in light of the *Ratio Institutionis* (to be adopted at the Extraordinary Definitory in Mexico City in 2026).

8. Other topics to be considered and discussed

✓ Commissariats must draw up their own *Statutes*, in accordance with the *Norms of Application* approved at the 2021 General Chapter. These *Statutes* must then be approved by the General Definitory.

✓ In each Province and Circumscription, we ask you to establish a policy for dealing with abuse. This may be your own policy or that of another institution.

✓ The Provincial or Major Superior who has been elected with the required number of votes must be confirmed by Father General. The secretary of each Chapter will present a report on the voting to Father General. Normally, one day should be set aside to receive the confirmation of the elected Superior.

9. Internationality and Interculturality

Born in the Middle East, reborn in Europe in the 16th century, Carmel is becoming increasingly international and intercultural. I would like to thank everyone who embodies the charism by keeping the flame of the origins alive and embracing the challenge of dialogue to integrate cultural diversity with creative fidelity to the Carmelite charism.

I would like to thank the Superiors who have guided and inspired the Circumscriptions over the last three years. I pray for and bless the would-be elected Provincials, Superiors and Councils. May the Holy Spirit enlighten our steps with creativity, listening and a sense of family on our journey!

May the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph guide your Chapter Assembly, making us docile to the voice of Jesus for us today and to the charism of Teresa and John of the Cross.

To all, I send my prayerful and blessings.



Fr. Miguel M^a

Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle
Superior General