



Carmelite Non-Governmental Organization (ngo)

Age, race, language, political point of view, or culture are not what unite us as Carmelites, but rather the desire to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is a desire to be of service to others, especially the poor, and to fulfill in this way the will of God. We do this within the Carmelite Family by living in accordance with the ideal that it proposes in its Rule, its mystical tradition and in the lives of its women and men.

At the beginning of the 13th century, the first Carmelites lived around the spring of Elijah on

Mount Carmel. There they meditated “day and night on the law of the Lord” and kept “vigil in prayer” (R.10). There they discovered the “inner spring” that wells up for eternal life.

In 1238, the Carmelites left Mount Carmel and traveled to Europe, taking with them the Rule of Saint Albert. The Rule has continued to be our guide until the present day. As a Carmelite Family, we gather around this “inner spring” to drink its water, and satisfy our thirst for God, Community and Justice.

Three words define our mission. **Prayer** by which we remain in contact with God; **Community** that creates a new way of living among us; **Justice** that leads us to defend the values of human life for every human being.

Thousands, throughout the world, brothers and sisters, religious and lay, belonging to different orders and congregations, movements and associations, countless people are devoted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The design is a summary of who we are as Carmelites.

The three circles indicate the three key words: Prayer, Community and Prophetic life. Because of their inter-relationship the Carmelite shield appears where they meet - at the center. That represents our contemplation, a new experience of God which gives us a new way of looking at God, at our neighbor, and at the world.

The three circles are like three wheels that create movement, setting the life of the members of the Carmelite Family in motion. Prayer brings tenderness when we decide to live in community. Community, brings solidarity when we come into contact with the needs of our sisters and brothers. The prophetic defense of human rights, of both individuals and peoples is born of the consciousness that we are responsible for one another. It brings holy zeal, and increases our thirst for justice and community.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Carmel,

We invite you to take a moment and reflect on the symbol of Carmelite Spirituality that was developed and designed by Father Carlos Mesters, O.Carm. and Carmelites in Brazil. The Brazilian group devoted three years to prayer, study and discussion on Carmelite Spirituality before the symbol became a reality.

On December 14, 2001, the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Sisters of Mount Carmel) in Louisiana received approval as a recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. In its application, the Sisters of Mount Carmel included the Carmelite Order as part of its work; thereby giving status with the United Nations to the Order.

On October 20, 2002, Pope John Paul II in his message to the Carmelite Family called its religious and third order members to be beacons of light in a troubled world. *"Carmel reminds people, preoccupied by so many cares, that the absolute priority must be the search for the 'Kingdom of God' and God's justice."*

It is in a spirit of authentic Carmelite Spirituality and in answering the challenge of John Paul II that we seize the opportunity to be of service to our sisters and brothers through our NGO position at the United Nations.

In order to work as an effective Carmelite Team we need to identify our strengths. This can be accomplished by identifying our ministries, and identifying the level of participation members can give. This is an interest survey, it is not asking anyone to change, start or withdraw from ministry.

We realize the categories do not fit everyone, but pick the one that is closest or check other and name.

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|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEADERSHIP | <input type="checkbox"/> congregational | <input type="checkbox"/> provincial | <input type="checkbox"/> local | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> congregational | <input type="checkbox"/> provincial | <input type="checkbox"/> local | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> university/college | <input type="checkbox"/> secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PASTORAL | <input type="checkbox"/> pastor | <input type="checkbox"/> parish adm. | <input type="checkbox"/> religious ed. | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH CARE | <input type="checkbox"/> congregational | <input type="checkbox"/> provincial | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL SERVICE | <input type="checkbox"/> diocesan | <input type="checkbox"/> parish | <input type="checkbox"/> civil | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER | _____ | | | |

Please indicate your ministry/city/province/country, i.e. secondary teacher/New Orleans/LA/USA

Please give your age _____ Level of interest in NGO (1 lowest - 10 highest) _____

Please return the completed survey to:

Carmelite NGO
c/o Sister Jane Remson, O.Carm.
1725 General Taylor Street
New Orleans, LA 70115 USA