

CARMEngo

BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

WINTER 2008 - VOL 1, NUMBER 1

*The Carmelite
NGO is a
structure to
facilitate
justice and
peace in the
21st century.*

Welcome to the first issue of *CarmeNGO*, the official publication of the Carmelite NGO. The Carmelite NGO invites you to join us in advocating on important issues, such as: human rights, freedom of belief, education and sustainable development. The goal of the Carmelite NGO is to actively participate in creating a more peaceful, just and loving world by advocating and caring for the spiritual and human needs of the human family and the environment. To accomplish this, we must actively participate at all levels of decision making from the lowest level to the highest.

The Carmelite NGO is not a source of funding, but a structure that facilitates substantive issues for its members with the highest level of international decision makers at the United Nations.

The preamble of the United Nations Charter states, "We the peoples of the United Nations are determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small..." The Carmelite NGO for its members voices of "the values of the Carmelite way of life to the United Nations.

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The Carmelite NGO is not just another organization working to make the world a better place. Yes, we work to make our world better, but what is different is that we bring a Carmelite dimension to our work. The Spirituality Reflection Team reflects upon the issues we undertake so that our approach is from a Carmelite perspective that reflects our tradition and charism.

Who can become a member of the Carmelite NGO? An organization that is Carmelite, for example, a parish organization, such as; a justice and peace group, a school, a parent-teacher association within a school, a local or national non-governmental organization or a Third Order Lay Chapter. The main qualification is that a Carmelite is a member of the organization. If you would like more detailed information, feel free to contact a member of the NGO Coordinating Team.

The Basis of Our Spiritual Reflection

Whatever action our NGO undertakes, the members will have to prepare for action by assiduous thought and reflection. The well-known See-Judge-Act dynamic offers a tried and tested method for such thought and reflection. Before Cardinal Joseph Cardijn proposed his method for Catholic Action in the post-war period, it was already common for people to see, then to judge and then to act on the basis of that judgement. What might be different is what we are prepared to look at in order to see. My seeing may be my research in the library, as a way of studying a problem, finding out what has been written about it, and then forming a judgement on the basis of what I see.

What seemed to be different in the Cardijn approach is that instead of seeing what was written in a book, people were more inclined to look at what was happening all around them. Paying attention to what is actually happening in people's lives today has given a new approach to theological truth. Truth does not change, but the way of coming to it, appreciating it and turning it into action has changed. This way of doing theology has given us a new approach to the hierarchy of truths and to the relevance of truths.

When we adopt this approach we open ourselves to what is happening in our sight. It is possible not to look. It is possible to look and not be affected. However, it is also likely that when we look we will be affected by what we see and we will want to be able to understand what is happening and what it is asking of us.

Judging and understanding involves wisdom. By what else can we judge except by the wisdom that comes from experience and knowledge? The wisdom that we have, as Carmelites, comes from human experience, the teaching of the Church, the Holy Scriptures and our own charism and tradition.

As part of the work of our NGO, and as a constant guide to that work, we will publish in each issue of this bulletin some passages for reflection that will help us to be more aware of the wisdom with which we may be able to judge correctly the issues that our NGO has taken into consideration. While there might be some greater emphasis on the riches of our Carmelite tradition, for the sake of completeness we will also include reflections on the other sources of wisdom that are part of the gift of the Church and of human experience.

Nothing is really going to change on the world scene until the world's peoples experience forgiveness, reconciliation, and transformation of the human person.

It struck me that after 800 years we certainly have a few suggestions on how this might occur in the various cultures and situations around the world.

*Do We Have A Place at the Table?
CITOC, 2004*

Annual Meeting Update

At the annual meeting of the Carmelite NGO in October at *Bustani ya Karmeli* in Kenya, two issues before the UN emerged as priorities for the Carmelite NGO-- climate change and Zimbabwe. Members from around the world and representing various segments of the Carmelite Family took part. The discussions over the four day meeting also fine tuned the structure that the NGO will be using in order to facilitate participation by members and organizations within the wider Carmelite Family.

The issue of climate change will be the major focus of the Carmelite NGO in 2008. This complex, global issue will be explored within the framework of our Carmelite spirituality. Such efforts will provide each Carmelite with the beginning points for his or her personal reflection and prayer.

The continuing difficulties in Zimbabwe, where the Carmelites have been present since 1946, have had a dramatic impact upon the country and the Carmelite ministry there. Through its members in Zimbabwe, the Carmelite NGO will be working to provide information.

CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information, you can visit our website carmelitengo.org or write to us by email at jfremson@loyno.edu or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA



In October, 2007, the Coordinating Team of the Carmelite NGO took advantage of its meeting in Kenya to visit the UN complex in Nairobi. This is the headquarters for the UN Environment and UN Habitat Programs. The environment is a major focus for the Carmelite NGO in 2008.

The 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The event is scheduled to be held in Paris, France in September 2008. This will be the eighth year the Carmelite NGO has been represented at these international conferences.



CARMELITE NGO

A NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATED WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



THE CARMELITE NGO is a project of the members of the Carmelite Family around the world.

The Carmelite NGO, associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, is comprised of the men and women from around the world who are members of the Carmelite religious Order or the affiliated Communities and Institutions within the Catholic Church. It is at the service of the people they serve.

More info...

60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference
UN Headquarters - New York - September 5-7, 2007

How Green is Carmel?
Planning the annual theme of the observance of nature and its sacramentality.

The Secretary of Creation in Geneva says that God gave humanity the authority to name his creation—a sign of our responsibility to the world and animals in it. This responsibility extends to how we garden, how we grow in the Church and in society, really. Where are we Carmelites on the issue?

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The Problem of Fresh Clean Water, Proper Sanitation for All

The UN Development Program's annual report claims that poor sanitation and limited access to clean water are serious obstacles hindering human progress in many developing Asian countries. The report said that two of every three people in South Asia lack basic sanitation, putting that region on a par with sub-Saharan Africa.

500 Million are God's Hunger in Our World of Plenty

One of the focuses of the Carmelite NGO is the problem of hunger in our world. Here we present an article by Carmelite sister Jane Sampson of the Carmelite NGO which has existed in this area for many years. We also present

More information about the Carmelite NGO, its activities, and a more in-depth presentation of the issues is always available on-line at carmelitengo.org. In the coming months the site will introduce several new features.

Meet Some Members of the Coordinating Team:

Jane Remson, O. Carm.

Jane is a member of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. She is a co-founder of the Mount Carmel Mobil Clinic located at Holy Child Hospital in Dumaguete City, Philippines. Since 1982, Jane serves at the Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice at Loyola University New Orleans as the director of the New Orleans Chapter of Bread for the World. Since 1999, she has guided the founding of the Carmelite NGO and serves as the main representative of the Carmelite NGO at the United Nations.

Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC

A member of the Handmaids of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the Diocese of Mutare in Zimbabwe, Africa. She has wide experience of teaching and administration. In her early years as a teacher she was also involved in vocation promotion and has promoted youth activities in different Parishes. From 1993 to 2001 she was working as an Education Secretary for Catholic schools in the Province. She later was asked by her congregation to be the Superior General from 2001-2007. She is currently working with the Carmelite NGO as a Member of the Coordinating Team representing the Carmelite Family.

Míceál O'Neill, O. Carm.

Míceál is a Carmelite friar, born in Ireland, and now a member of a community that runs a primary and secondary school for boys in Dublin. He worked for four years in a parish in the Andes of Peru. He served for twelve years on the central administration of the Carmelite Order, in which his particular responsibility was the development of the Order's commitment to the work of justice and peace. It was during those twelve years that the Carmelite NGO came into being. Míceál's special interest is in the spirituality that lies behind and supports the commitment to justice and peace in the world. He coordinates the Spirituality Reflection Team.

Arie Kuil, O. Carm.

Arie is a member of the Dutch Carmelite province. Arie was a missionary in the Philippines for thirty four years. He worked among the basic Christian communities, headed the Young Carmelites Philippines Foundation and was responsible for the construction of several buildings. Three years ago, Arie returned to the Netherlands and is now the mission procurator of the Dutch province and secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission.

Norbert Fokisa, O. Carm.

Norbert Fokisa is a member of the the Carmelite Order from Zimbabwe. Since 2002 he has worked in the area of human rights. He works with local and regional organisations in peace building and conflict management. Justice and peace as well as civic education is an integral part of his work in the developing world. He serves as the Carmelite NGO coordinator in Africa.

William J. Harry, O. Carm.

William is a member of the Carmelite Order from America. He has worked primarily in secondary education in the United States. As director of a large secondary school in Illinois which has been nationally recognized for its programs, William served on several civic boards aimed at the youth, drug education, and public safety. In 2001, he was elected to serve on the international governing board of the Carmelite Order. Among his responsibilities, he worked with the fledgling Carmelite NGO as the Order's representative. He now coordinates the communications programs of the Carmelite NGO.

Carmelite NGO Coordinating Team

Jane Remson, O. Carm.
Main Representative

Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC
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