



DICASTERO
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Vatican City, April 18, 2024

Prot. n. 2566/2020

Dearest Sisters of the Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity,

On January 8, 2024, the terms of office of the prioress, subprioress, and councillors of the Arlington Carmel expired. According to your Constitutions, (number 148; cf. cc. 615 and 625 §2), the local Ordinary is the competent authority to preside over the Monastery's elections, but to date Bishop Olson has neither been contacted nor been requested that he come officiate over their triennial elections. Complicating matters is the fact that on August 18, 2023 you issued a public declaration rejecting the authority of the Bishop of Fort Worth and explicitly prohibited his access to the monastery grounds and buildings.

This Dicastery draws to your attention that the juridical autonomy of a monastery *sui iuris* needs to be matched by a genuine autonomy of life (cf. *Vultum Dei Quaerere* Art. 8 § 1). Such autonomy requires, among other things, "a real capacity for ... governance." Thus, this curial office finds that, in the present instance, the Carmel's "genuine autonomy" is lacking due to a total absence of lawful governance (cf. *Vultum Dei Quaerere*, Art. 8, § 2).

Yet, despite this sad state of affairs, this Dicastery is fully convinced that every effort should be made to preserve the spiritual health and longevity of the Arlington Carmelite Monastic community.

On March 12, 2024, the president of the Carmelite Association of Christ the King (USA), wrote this Dicastery, with the unanimous support of her council, as well as with the unanimous support of the member monasteries, (the Arlington Carmel itself excepted),

Enclosure: Decree

Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity
Discalced Carmelite Nuns
5801 Mt. Carmel Drive
Arlington, Texas 76017
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

and with the approval of the Association's religious assistant and local Ordinary requesting that this Dicastery **entrust** the Arlington Carmel to the Association of Christ the King (cf. *Vultum Dei Quaerere*, Art. 8, § 3, *Cor orans*, 13).

Thus, to restore order and proper ecclesiastical governance, you are hereby notified that as of April 18, 2024 (see attached decree) this Dicastery **entrusted** (cf. *Vultum Dei Quaerere*, Art. 8, § 3) the Arlington Carmel to the Association of Christ the King (USA). With this entrustment the President of the Association of Christ the King is recognized as the lawful major superior of the monastery and, together with her council, she is to exercise full governance over the Carmelite nuns and Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity.

With the entrustment of your Monastery to the Association of Christ the King, you are instructed to cooperate fully with the President of the Association. Additionally, the bishop's authority in accord with canon 615 remains intact and must be respected.

Finally, to regularize your relationship with the Bishop of Fort Worth and the local church you are instructed to withdraw and rescind your declaration of August 18, 2023. (See, *Declaration of the Reverend Mother Prioress and the chapter of the Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity of Arlington, Texas*, at: <http://www.carmelnuns.com/>).

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Sr. Simona Brambilla, M.C.

Secretary


Sr. Carmen Ros Nortes, N.S.C

Undersecretary