



CURIA GENERALIZIA DEI CARMELITANI

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To: All Lay Carmelites
Provincials, Commissaries and Delegates for the Carmelite Laity

Rome, 10th January 2018

Prot. 5/2018

Object: **International Congress for the Carmelite Laity 2018**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel,

It is with great joy that we invite you to the forthcoming International Congress of the Carmelite Laity that will be held in:

Rome (Sassone) - Italy
from 15th September (arrival day)
to 21st September (departure day)

The theme of the gathering is *Our Lady of Carmel: Mother of Family*. This Congress is a unique occasion for the Carmelite laity to learn more about our Mother of Carmel, truly our mother and sister. It will also be a great opportunity to share their experiences of living as Carmelites in their different countries and cultures, to get to know other Carmelite lay people and what they are doing, to have an experience of Carmelite fraternity and of the bonds of spirituality and charism that unite us as all, as brothers and sisters, in the Carmelite Family throughout the world.

In addition to the conferences, the participants will be able to hear testimonies and experiences from lay Carmelites from all over the world, where Lay Carmelites communities are present. The congress will also offer work groups where the participants will be able to reflect on the themes addressed in the different talks.

We encourage our Delegates (Carmelite friars) and those who have a particular responsibility or hold a particular office among Lay Carmelites to take part in this event. The Congress, however, is **open** to all lay Carmelites who might wish to attend.

The capacity of the venue is limited, and since we are expecting about 280 people, it will not be possible to book single rooms. We ask for the understanding from all participants in this regard, as we would like to offer the opportunity to as many people as possible to participate.

The registration fee is €450 (four hundred and fifty euros) per person, for shared rooms with two beds. This amount covers participation, accommodation with meals, transportation to St. Peter's Square for the public audience with Pope Francis, plus transportation from and to the airport on specific days and times.



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Those wishing to take part in the Congress, please, register and make a non-refundable deposit of €100 (one hundred euros), or the equivalent in their local currency, by 15th June 2018, to your Province, Commissariat, Delegation or Mission, which will then forward it to the General Curia. Once you get your airfare, please, make sure to deposit the difference of the registration fee to your Province, Commissariat, Delegation or Mission (three hundred and fifty euros).

We have attached herewith a registration form, which we request you to fill in, have it confirmed by your local prior or delegate for the laity and then scan and send it to us at the following email address: lay@ocarm.org

In case you are not able to do it by email, kindly send it to the office of your Province/Commissariat/Delegation/Mission. The filled in form should be emailed or sent to us by June 15th 2018.

Arrival for the congress will be on Saturday 15th September 2018. The congress will begin on the morning of Sunday 16th September. Departures will be on Friday 21st September 2018. We will **only** arrange transportation from airport to Sassone on Saturday 15th September, and from Sassone to airport on Friday 21st (specific hours will be announced for both days).

If you would like to arrive a day or two before the meeting or stay for a few days after the congress, please, note that the charge for the extra days at Sassone will be €60 (sixty euros) per person and per night. This will have to be paid directly to the administration of the retreat house in Sassone.

If you need a visa to enter Italy, kindly apply for it with anticipation since in some cases it may take a few weeks. For those who may need an **invitation letter for a visa**, please, contact the office of your Provincial/Commissary/Delegate in your country.

Let us hope that the Congress will help each one of us to grow in our identity and fidelity to our Carmelite vocation.

Fraternally in Carmel,

Fr. Raúl Maraví, O.Carm.
General Councilor

P.S.: For further information, see the website of the Order: www.ocarm.org/lay