

SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES

NATIONAL STATUTES

for

AUSTRALIA

and

SAMOA

NATIONAL STATUTES

PREFACE

1. These National Statutes are intended to help Secular Order members live their vocation in the social, cultural and ecclesial context of Australia and Samoa. [Constitutions, Preface]

I OUR IDENTITY, VALUES AND COMMITMENT

2. Carmelite Seculars are called to carry into the world the distinctive witness of Carmel: *The Lord of Hosts lives, before whom I stand* – 1 Kings 17:1. Our daily work and prayers, joys and sorrows, relationships and apostolic endeavours are guided by the Spirit to become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. [cf LG 34]

II FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE TERESIAN SECULAR CARMEL

3. Persons of either sex, single, married or widowed may be admitted to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites provided that they:
 - a) are practising Catholics [Constitutions 3]
 - b) respect the authority of the Pope and the Magisterium of the Church
 - c) are not members of any Institute of Consecrated Life or Society of Apostolic Life or of any other Secular (Third) Order or group with a specific spirituality, either as professed members or novices [Constitutions 37]
 - d) desire union with God through contemplation and apostolic action, to further the coming of God's Kingdom, following the example of Mary [Constitutions 4, 9b, 17, 20]
 - e) are able to attend a monthly meeting
 - f) have reached 18 years of age and have a reasonable prospect of being active members of the Community [Constitutions 58f]
 - g) are open to formation.

The Monthly Meeting

4. We highly value the traditional monthly meeting as an important grace and give it priority in our lives. It is an occasion to pray together, to further spiritual formation, to grow in fraternal charity, to encourage one another and to transact the business of the Community.
 - a) Business is kept to essentials and ample time allowed for social interaction in the true Teresian spirit. [Constitutions 35; WP Ch IV]

- b) We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and as far as possible, work towards a consensus in decision-making with consultation taking place between members in an atmosphere of free and open dialogue.
 - c) We graciously accept and perform the tasks assigned to us in the service of the community.
5. If a member is unable to attend the monthly meeting, an apology is required. Absence should be for an important reason.
 6. We support and encourage those members who are sick or infirm and those who may have special needs. [Constitutions 51, 56]
 7. For a visitor to attend a Community meeting request must be made to the President.
 8. In addition to the formal monthly meeting, other less formal gatherings may be used to enhance formation and Community.

III WITNESSES TO THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD

9. Called to communion with Christ in the service of the Church, we:
 - a) faithfully observe the daily round of worship and our traditional commitment to at least half an hour in quiet prayer. [Constitutions 21, 24]
 - b) are inspired and nourished by reading Sacred Scripture and the Rule of St Albert and immerse ourselves in the writings of our Carmelite Saints. [Constitutions 19]

Self Denial and Taking up the Cross [Constitutions 22]

10. The days and times of penance for the universal Church are each Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent [Canon 1250]. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat [Canon 1251]. Traditionally the vigils of the Solemnities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St Teresa of Jesus and St John of the Cross are days of penance for Carmelites. Some act of self-denial is also recommended on the vigils of Solemnities and Feasts of Our Lady.
11. Some examples of the common practice of penance or self-denial are:
 - a) abstaining from meat or some other food
 - b) abstaining from alcoholic drink
 - c) fasting
 - d) sacrificing our time and/or resources to help the poor and the needy
 - e) making an extra effort in terms of family prayer, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross
 - f) visiting our aged members, the sick and lonely.

Our Deceased Members [Constitutions 58d]

12. “From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.” [CCC 1032; LG 50] Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective. [CCC 958]
13. We remember those who have died:
 - a) On the death of a community member or Spiritual Assistant, the President shall inform the Community and send a written notice to the other communities in the Region. The Community will arrange a celebration of the Eucharist for the repose of the soul of the deceased. All should attend the funeral, if possible.
 - b) On the death of any secular or religious member of the Carmelite family in the Region, every member will arrange a celebration of the Eucharist or pray, on a ferial day, Morning and Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead or pray five decades of the Rosary. All should attend the funeral, if reasonably possible.
 - c) On the death of a Pope, Father General, Father Provincial, their Delegates or the Bishop of the diocese, each Community will arrange a celebration of the Eucharist. Each member will pray, on a ferial day, Morning and Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead or pray five decades of the Rosary.
 - d) On the Commemoration of All Carmelite Souls (15th November) where possible each member will join in the celebration of the Eucharist and pray according to his/her devotion for the deceased members of the whole Order of Carmel.
 - e) Each Community will arrange a celebration of the Eucharist on the death of one of its member’s immediate family.
 - f) Each Community will keep a register of its deceased members and pray for them in the intercession of Morning or Evening Prayer at the meeting closest to their anniversary.

IV SERVING GOD’S PLAN

14. Contemplative prayer, for Saint Teresa, is at the heart of the Church and is essentially apostolic. We aim to live the gospel in a spirit of prophetic hope at the heart of the Church and society. [Constitutions 25]
15. Each of us is entrusted with a unique task which cannot be done by another. “The apostolate exercised by the individual – which flows abundantly from a truly Christian life – is the starting point and condition of all types of lay apostolate, including the organised apostolate; nothing can replace it.” [AA 16; Constitutions 27]
16. Called to a life which is both contemplative and apostolic, we:
 - a) promote the mission of Carmel in the world while remaining respectful of others in their vocations and apostolates [Constitutions 28]

- b) support our Parish Priest and if possible become involved in the life of our parish, especially in those areas which relate to prayer and social justice [AA 10; CL 27]
- c) pray for priests and religious and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life [NMI 46; St Teresa and St Therese, passim]
- d) support and encourage one another in group apostolates related to our charism and mission [LG 33; Constitutions 26, 27]
- e) have a concern for the poor and contribute to their needs both individually and as community. [Constitutions 55]

V WITH MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, AND ST JOSEPH

- 17. As the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother and Patroness of our Order, and the perfect model for us of the contemplative life, we:
 - a) honour her daily in different ways, as each is led by the Spirit in fidelity to our Carmelite tradition. [Lk.1:39-45; Jn 2:1-12; Acts 1:14]
 - b) esteem the practices and exercises of devotion towards her recommended by the Church down the centuries. [LG 67; Constitutions 29, 30, 31]
- 18. We honour St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, as “master” and teacher of prayer, taking to heart St Teresa’s desire that all “be devoted to this saint”. [L Ch. VI]

VI FORMATION IN THE SCHOOL OF CARMEL

- 19. a) Formation in the Secular Order, initial and ongoing, aims to assist its members to reach human and Christian maturity in their apostolic lives according to the spirit and charism of Carmel under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. [Constitutions 34]
- b) The whole formation process is carried out in a friendly, respectful and non- judgmental way, allowing candidates to respond in their own time as we share with love the riches of our vocation. [Constitutions 36]
- 20. a) An Enquirer is one who has expressed interest in the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites and has been invited by the President or Formator to attend a meeting or a series of Pre-formation sessions with the view to possibly joining. [Constitutions 36a]
- b) An Aspirant is one who has been received into Formation. [Constitutions 36b]
- c) A candidate becomes a Member from the time of their First Promise. [Constitutions 12]
- 21. a) Before an Enquirer may attend a Community meeting, he/she must be referred to the President or Formator.

- b) If possible, the Council and Spiritual Assistant are informed before an Enquirer attends a first meeting in order to facilitate assistance and welcome.
 - c) Enquirers attend regular pre-formation meetings for a period of six to twelve months before being invited by Council to seek admission to formation. [Constitutions 36a]
 - d) At every stage of formation, candidates require the acceptance of their family regarding the commitment being undertaken, including regular attendance at the monthly meeting.
- 22.
- a) In accordance with Constitution 58a, which calls for the development of an adequate program of formation, the Director of Formation and the other Council members give due attention to current guidelines for formation.
 - b) The Council needs to be sensitive to the God given gifts of all members and foster and encourage their development, especially with the view to future Formators.
 - c) The Council ensures that adequate ongoing formation is provided.
23. The community Council prayerfully discerns the vocation of candidates at each stage of the formation process from Reception to Definitive Promise and, before each stage, formally ascertains the candidates' intentions. [Constitutions 36, 44] Some essential qualities of a Secular Carmelite vocation are:
- a) a Marian meditative attitude [Luke 2: 51]
 - b) a practical love for the writings of our founder and saints
 - c) a genuine commitment to the Order and to the Church
 - d) prayer as the focus and centre of life
 - e) common sense.

Ceremonies and Symbols of Carmel

24. The ceremonies of Admission to Formation and of making the Promises and Vows are joyful and prayerful occasions for the whole community. They are liturgically celebrated according to the norms laid down in the Ritual with as many of the community present as possible. [Constitutions 12; Ritual, Introduction 3]
25. The Rite of Admission to Formation takes place during a community meeting and is a quiet and simple ceremony. The Rites of making Promises and Vows are more solemn and candidates are encouraged to invite their immediate family and friends to the ceremony.
- 26.
- a) Prior to the ceremony of the Promise or Vows, candidates write out in their own hand, the formula of the Promise or Vows, which they sign after the profession. It is dated and also signed by the Priest and two witnesses, usually the Formator and President. This record is kept by the candidate and the details are recorded by the Secretary in the Community register.
 - b) Active members whose first promise has expired and are continuing formation, should renew the Promise for a period deemed appropriate by the Council, but usually not more than one and a half years. This renewal is made by the member reading the formula of the promise in

the presence of the Council. It is sufficient for the President and Formator to sign as witnesses.

27. A ceremonial scapular representing membership in the Order and symbolising our dedication to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is given during the Rite of Admission. [Constitutions 36b, Ritual 24] The scapular consists of two pieces of brown cloth approximately 8 cm by 10 cm, attached and worn over the shoulders. Any ornamentation should be kept simple.
28. The ceremonial scapular may be worn by members at meetings, ceremonies and Masses of the Order according to the custom prevailing in each community. [Constitutions 58i] A small scapular is worn daily. For a good reason the scapular medal may be worn in place of the small scapular.
29.
 - a) At the First Promise a title of devotion may be added to one's baptismal name. This is a matter of private devotion.
 - b) During the ceremony of the First Promise, the badge – Crest of the Order – may be presented to the newly professed. [Constitutions 58i; Ritual 62] It may be worn externally as a witness to Carmel and the importance of contemplative prayer in the Church.

Vows

30.
 - a) Permission to take vows of chastity and obedience may be given, at any time after one year from the Definitive Promise, by the Council of the Community and the Provincial Delegate, provided the member has sought wise counsel and gives evidence of having studied the theological and spiritual meaning of the vows.
 - b) The Vows do not enhance a member's status in the Order but they do entail a new moral responsibility being a complete offering of oneself in worship to God.
 - c) The member's application is made in writing to the Community Council.
 - d) The Vows are understood and interpreted in the same way as the Promise. [Constitutions 13 & 15]
 - e) The Vows are made in accordance with the norms laid down in the Documents and Ritual.

VII ORGANISATION AND GOVERNMENT

LOCAL STRUCTURE

Community Council

31. The President convenes and presides over meetings of the community Council. The Council meets regularly three times a year and at other times as occasion demands. [Constitutions 46, 47, 48] At the request of two Council members, the President is obliged to convene a meeting of Council. The President informs the Community in good time before each meeting so that members may make submissions for consideration by Council. While in charity an appropriate

confidentiality is observed in matters pertaining to individual members, in general the Community should be kept informed of all matters pertaining to its spiritual and temporal welfare.

32. Council will aim to make decisions by consensus. After allowing adequate time for Council members to express their views, the President may put a motion or request that a motion be put to Council. If the motion is supported by another Council member, it may be decided by a show of hands or a secret vote. A secret vote is always required for the approval of candidates for Admission to Formation, Promises and Vows and in other matters at the request of a member of Council. A motion is approved by a simple majority of votes, i.e. more than half the valid votes. Once a decision is made it is supported by all Council members.
33.
 - a) A member who for a serious reason makes a written request to leave the Order, may be released by Council from the Promise and Vows, after appropriate dialogue with the Council. This release is given formally in writing. The Community is then informed of the decision.
 - b) The Council, after consultation with the Provincial or his Delegate and in accordance with Constitutions 47e and Canon Law 308 and 316, has the authority to dismiss any member should this be necessary, after appropriate dialogue. Sufficient grounds include such behaviour as chronic absenteeism or a habit of disrupting the Community.
34.
 - a) With the approval of the Provincial Delegate and an established Community Council, candidates living at an exceptional distance from an established Community, may be eligible for acceptance and formation by that Community. [Constitution 58b)]
 - b) In such cases, the candidate must be capable of maintaining at least a minimal, ongoing, active participation through attendance at sufficient meetings to ensure full identity with the Community and the Council's adequate knowledge of the candidate.
 - c) The Community Council must take responsibility for the candidate's formation. It may at times be more cost effective and practical for a member of the Community Council to travel and visit the candidates, especially when there is more than one candidate in the same area.
 - d) They will be considered "Distant Members" of that Community, with the obligation to full attendance if their prohibiting circumstances change. [Constitutions 58b]
 - e) Request for assistance may be made to the National Council if required. [Statute 52b iv)]
35.
 - a) The title "Special Member" is given to those who are professed members of a community but, because of age, illness or other circumstances beyond their control, are no longer able to attend meetings. [Constitutions 56] Special Members who have made First Promise need the approval of the Community Council and the Provincial Delegate to make their Definitive Promise.
 - b) Special Members are expected to participate in their Community meetings and activities, if their prohibiting circumstances change.

36. If in the opinion of the Council, a community is too large, the possibility of forming another group may be considered taking into account the age of the members, the probability of new members and the availability of members in Promises to form another group.
[Constitutions 58g]
37. a) Permission of the Provincial or his Delegate is needed to start a new group. Initially this permission is given “ad experimentum” for three years. The Provincial Delegate will appoint a Coordinator / Formator to promote the development of the group and to ensure the adequate formation of new members.
- b) The Provincial Delegate will provide sufficient spiritual assistance until a regular Spiritual Assistant is appointed.
- c) After the three years the Provincial Delegate, in consultation with the group members, will review its progress and make appropriate adjustments.
- d) When, in the judgement of the Provincial Delegate, a new group has sufficient members in Promises, it may be given an interim structure to facilitate its development towards canonical erection as a community.
38. The interim structure of an emerging community is a Council appointed by the Provincial Delegate after consultation with those members who have made Promises. It will include a President, a Director of Formation and at least one other member. It will hold office for three years and may be re-appointed for a further period. The Interim Council constitutes the immediate authority of the group and will exercise its mandate according to the Constitutions within the limitations determined by the Provincial Delegate. [Constitutions 47]
39. The canonical erection of a new community is governed by the Constitutions 49, with the following modification: at least ten members are required to form a community, four of whom must have made the Definitive Promise.
40. The ceremony for the canonical erection of a new community is given in the Ritual. At its first meeting following the ceremony the new community will elect its Council. [Ritual 85 – 94; Constitutions 50 & ff]

Community Council Elections

41. As required by the Constitutions, the election of the community Council is held every three years. It cannot be anticipated. For a good reason it may be postponed, but not beyond three months. [Constitutions. 50; Canon 165]
42. The Council convenes the community for elections, determining the date and time. [Constitutions 47c)] At least two months beforehand, the President announces the day and time and notifies any absent members. One month before the elections the President reminds members of the forthcoming elections and reviews the procedures as outlined in the Constitutions and these National Statutes.

43. Election to office is a call to serve the community and unless there is a serious reason, such a call is accepted in a spirit of obedience to God's will. As part of their preparation, members prayerfully reflect on the "signs of the times" and on the gifts and abilities of their brothers and sisters in community as they discern who might best fulfil the functions of a good working Council. Some relevant attributes are:-
- a) Prayerful – a contemplative outlook
 - b) Pastoral – ability to address the needs of members in the context of the good of the whole community
 - c) Prophetic – ability to discern the "signs of the times" in the light of the Gospels and Church documents and set practical priorities for the community
 - d) Collaborative – able to promote the co-responsible involvement of all members in the life of the community
 - e) Apostolic – a practical appreciation of the place of the Teresian Carmel in the local Church. [Constitutions 27]
44. The following offices are incompatible:
- a) the office of President with any other office in the community
 - b) the office of Councillor with the office of Director of Formation.
45. a) The President is elected by a simple majority, i.e. more than half the valid votes, from among those who have made the Definitive Promise. A President may be re-elected for a second consecutive term on receiving two thirds of the vote in the first ballot. If the incumbent fails to receive two thirds of the vote in the first ballot he/she is eliminated and the election continues in the usual way with the second ballot. [Statute 47]
- b) Only under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Provincial or his Delegate, can the President be included on the ballot paper for election for a third term. [Constitutions 50]
46. a) The First Councillor is elected from those who have made Definitive Promise.
- b) For the remaining Council elections, all members in promises who are eligible for office, are included on the ballot paper. Voters should bear in mind that only in particular circumstances should those in First Promises serve as Councillors. [Constitutions 52]
- c) Councillors may be re-elected for a second consecutive term by a simple majority of votes. Election as a Councillor for a third consecutive term is not allowed.
- d) A Reserve Councillor is elected who will fill the vacancy if a Councillor is selected to become Director of Formation, or a member of the Council resigns or is unable to continue in office for whatever reason.
47. Without prejudice to Statute 45
- a) In order to be elected a candidate must receive a simple majority of votes.
 - b) If there is no simple majority in the first ballot, a second ballot is held.
 - c) If no candidate in the second ballot receives a simple majority, a third is held.

- d) The only candidates in the third ballot are the two members who received the highest number of votes in the second ballot. Those two members do not vote in the third ballot.
 - e) The candidate receiving the majority of votes in the third ballot is elected.
 - f) In all elections where two or more members receive an equal number of votes, the senior (by date of First Promise) is elected; or if their Promise was made on the same day, the senior (by age) is elected.
- 48.
- a) Members who have made their First Promise have the right to vote in elections.
 - b) Because of the essentially lay character of the Order [Constitutions 37], members who are clerics may not be elected or appointed to office.
 - c) Absentee voting is not allowed. [Canon 167#1]
 - d) Special and Distant Members may not vote in elections or be elected to office.
- 49.
- a) The President presides at elections with the Director of Formation and Secretary as scrutineers.
 - b) At the appointed time the members assemble for the election:
 - i) led by the President, the hymn or prayer to the Holy Spirit is sung or recited;
 - ii) the Secretary reads his/her report and presents the books of the community for inspection; [Constitutions. 54]
 - iii) the Treasurer submits a financial statement and presents the account books; [Constitutions. 55]
 - iv) the President proposes a motion to the community for the acceptance of the reports as read and tabled; questions and amendments are dealt with and the motion is put to the community for approval. When approved, the books are signed by the President and Secretary;
 - v) the ballot box is placed on the table in front of the President.
- 50.
- a) Ballot papers, bearing the names of all who are eligible for office are prepared beforehand by the Secretary, with the approval of the Council. Names are listed in alphabetical order according to family name, with a reasonable space between each name to avoid confusion when voters mark their choice.
 - b) Separate ballot papers are prepared for the election of President and each Councillor. [Prepare four ballot papers for each elector for every ballot.]
 - c) The President announces each ballot in turn. Each elector goes to a table or to a place apart and marks a single tick opposite the candidate of choice, folds the paper and places it in the ballot box. A ballot paper with one tick only, is valid.
 - d) When all eligible members present have voted, the President opens the ballot box and counts the number of ballot papers, without opening them. If the number of ballot papers is not equal to the number of electors present, the ballot is invalid and is repeated.

- e) The President opens each ballot paper, announces it aloud and shows it to the scrutineers. The Secretary records the vote and, when all the votes are counted, the President announces the result. The election continues. [Statute 47]
 - f) After each election the candidate elected is asked by the President to indicate his/her acceptance. [Statute 43]
- 51.
- a) The newly elected President and Councillors, after consulting with the Spiritual Assistant, elect the Director of Formation from among those who have made the Definitive Promise. [Constitutions 50; Statutes 44 & 46d]
 - b) The newly formed Council appoints a Secretary and a Treasurer, whose duties are set out in the Constitutions 54 & 55.
 - c) The Provincial Delegate and National Council are advised of the results of the election as soon as possible.

NATIONAL STRUCTURE

National Council

- 52.
- a) The National Council [Constitutions 57 & 60] is an ecclesial expression of the communion in Christ of the Secular order communities in Australia and Samoa. Above all it is a focal point of unity and love within the Secular order and a means of liaison with the Provincial or his Delegate and the wider Teresian Carmelite family. It is a collaborative body formed “not to be served but to serve.” [Mt 20:28]
 - b) It operates under two modes:-
As a secretariat in such areas as:-
 - i) providing means of communication for the exchange of information and resources
 - ii) maintaining a current National Directory of members.
As a pro-active service, in such areas as:-
 - iii) identifying matters to be brought to the attention of the Provincial Delegate and being a source of advice to him
 - iv) assisting in the development of new groups
 - v) organizing Congresses
 - vi) researching areas of growth and development, particularly relating to apostolate and formation.
- 53.
- a) The National Council consists of a President and four Councillors.
 - b) A Secretary and Treasurer are chosen from among the Councillors.
 - c) Election is for a period of three years.
- 54.
- a) The National Council calls for the election of delegates for the National Council elections, notifying each community of the closing date by which all delegates are to be elected and the National Council notified.

- b) Each canonically erected Community elects two delegates from its Community and each non erected group elects one delegate from its Group, according to standard voting procedure. [Statute 47]
 - c) Delegates are required to have made their Definitive Promise.
 - d) The election of a President, four Councillors and a Reserve Councillor, is made from among these delegates and by these delegates, with the election procedure in accordance with Statutes 45, 47 & 50.
 - e) The Councillors may be re-elected for a second consecutive term by a simple majority of votes, i.e. more than half the valid votes. Election for a third consecutive term is not allowed.
 - f) The Reserve Councillor will fill the vacancy if a member of the Council resigns or is unable to continue in office.
 - g) This election is to be carried out by postal vote, unless all delegates are already gathered for a Congress or other reason.
 - h) The National Council prepares the ballot papers.
 - i) The National Council President presides over the elections assisted by two conveniently available scrutineers from the National Council or from the local Community Council.
 - j) The Provincial Delegate is advised of the results of the election as soon as possible
55. The President convenes the meetings of the National Council. The first meeting is held as soon as practicable after the election with a member of the outgoing Council attending to facilitate the handover.
56. The National Council meets at least every two years and may meet at other times if necessary. Local communities and groups are to be notified in good time before all meetings and encouraged to submit items for the agenda. In between meetings Council business may be conducted using appropriate electronic communications media.
57. The Secretary will record the minutes of National Council meetings and keep a record of all Council activities. The Secretary is also responsible for the National Directory of members and will revise it annually. The National Directory will include:
- a) a separate list of members for each category of membership, namely, Definitive Promise, First Promise, Special members, Distant members,
 - b) the name, date of birth, community and date of Promise of each member;
 - c) a list of Deceased members with their date of death and community.
58. The Treasurer will keep accurate records of all income and expenditure of the National Fund and submit an annual report to the National Council.

59. The National Council is to keep the Provincial Delegate and the local Communities informed about its work and service by regular circulars and an annual financial statement.
60. a) The National Council will establish a fund to cover travel costs and general expenses of the Secular Order. Each community, according to its means and in a spirit of Teresian generosity, will contribute to this fund annually and at other times when requested to meet a specific need.
- b) Travel for official National Council business is always approved by Council before the expense is incurred.
- c) Annual contributions to help support the work of the General Delegate in Rome and also the Provincial Delegate will be made from the National Fund.

The Provincial or Delegate

61. a) The “Provincial Delegate” is a Discalced Carmelite Friar appointed by the Provincial to assist him in his responsibility for the Secular Order. [Constitutions 41-43]
- b) The Delegate attends the meetings of the National Council and may offer spiritual and practical advice, but does not vote. His presence and participation is a tangible sign of the juridical and fraternal ties between the Friars and the Secular Order.
- c) Either the Provincial or his Delegate makes visitations of communities, during which they may make recommendations to the Community Council. [Constitutions 43]
62. The procedure in cases of dispute will include interviews with individual members and ongoing consultation with the Council. [Constitutions 43]
63. a) In Groups without an established Council, the Provincial or his Delegate will make decisions, but always in consultation with the Interim Council or the appointed Coordinator. [Statutes 37 & 38]
- b) In cases of intractable dispute, but only when all other avenues have been excluded, the recommendations might include dismissal of individual members, but always in consultation with the Provincial. [Constitutions 47e]
- c) Though disbandment of a group always remains an option, it is one of last resort. It is only to be considered after all other avenues have been diligently and conscientiously explored.
- d) In such cases, those in Definitive promises would be members without a community. In this anomalous situation, the Provincial Delegate will invite them as soon as possible, to choose from these options:-
- i) to be dispensed from Promises;
 - ii) to apply to become Distant Members of a community willing to accept and support them;

iii) to remain as they are, faithful to their basic obligations and Promises.

In this latter case they are to expect ongoing support from and maintain communication with the National Council. They are to be called Special Members.

- e) Those in First Promises, not having completed formation, cannot continue unless, at the discretion of the Provincial Delegate, they become Distant Members of communities willing to accept, form and support them.

KEY TO REFERENCES

Documents of the Order

Rule	Rule of St Albert
Constitutions	OCDS Constitutions
Ritual	Documents and Ritual of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites
Statutes	National Statutes for the Secular Order in Australia and Samoa

Writings of St Teresa

L	Life
WP	Way of Perfection

Documents of the Second Vatican Council

LG	Lumen Gentium – Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
AA	Apostolicam Actuositatem – Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity

Other Documents

CL	Christifideles Laici – Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation On the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful
NMI	Novo Millennio Ineunte – Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter At the Beginning of the New Millennium
Canon	Code of Canon Law
CCC	Catechism of the Catholic Church