

Commission for the Rereading of the OCD Constitutions

A Lamp for my Feet

Rereading the Constitutions for a Renewal of Life

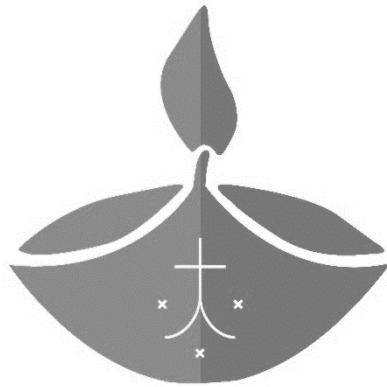
Itinerary and Methodology



General House
Discalced Carmelites
Rome 2015

A Lamp for my Feet

Rereading the Constitutions for a Renewal of Life



Itinerary and Methodology

The General Chapter of the Teresian Carmel, celebrated in Avila last May 2015 decided to begin the process of rereading the Constitutions with the purpose of renewal of life. With the assistance of an international commission, the General Definitory has prepared an itinerary and methodology which it now endorses to all our religious and communities.

We hope this facilitates an encounter with the text that is both spiritual and integral. This does not involve an academic exercise but a rereading of our fundamental legislative texts in the spirit of attentiveness to the Voice of God with the desire to thoroughly review our identity in the light of our Teresian Charism and the way we live it.

METHODOLOGY

For this task, we use the *lectio divina*, a well known Christian spiritual tradition employed in reading the Sacred Scriptures and other important texts. Let us follow the proposed itinerary with personal commitment and community dialogue.

The booklets cover each section of the Constitutions and include some guidelines for rereading the text.

The task involved for each section is organized in four phases. The first and third are to be done personally while the second and the fourth are to be done in a communal setting. The four parts are as follows:

I. *Lectio* – Read the text

Begin with a personal reading of the corresponding texts from the Constitutions. This entails approaching the texts with simplicity and the desire to truly understand its contents and importance for our life. In the booklet questions and suggestions are provided to facilitate this initial encounter.

II. *Meditatio* – Reflect on the text from the perspective of daily life
This phase requires a first Community meeting which proceeds as follows:

The meeting begins with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. If desired, a prayer from the booklet may be used.

1. Read the Introduction. This is found at the last part of the corresponding booklet and contains a brief presentation of the structure of the text and a commentary of its more important parts. This may be read during the meeting or presented to the



community by any member prepared to do so. (Supplemental notes are provided in the booklet.)

2. Facilitate a communal discussion on the following points indicated in the booklet:
 - (a) *Our concrete life*: To what extent are the various elements of our vocation mandated by the Constitutions put into practice?
 - (b) *The situation of the Church and of society*: Compare the content and the language used in the current legislative text *vis-a-vis* the values, needs and forms of expression of the Church and society today.

The meeting concludes with a prayer (An option is provided in the booklet).

III. *Oratio-Contemplatio* –Entering into Dialogue with God

Each of the religious allots personal time and creates an appropriate environment to reread the text in an atmosphere of prayer. The booklet provides some suggestions for this purpose through three steps:

1. Read and reflect on the text to discern what God is telling me through it.
2. Enter into a personal dialogue with God.
3. Be open to the Presence and Action of the Spirit.

(Likewise, a form of communal celebration in relation to the particular theme of the Constitutions you are working on may be prepared, e.g. a liturgy of the Word, a penitential service, a retreat, etc.)



IV. Actio – Making Concrete Commitments

In a second community meeting, draw out some operative conclusions from the preceding steps through two ways:

1. *From the Constitutions to Daily Life.* Ask: What do we need to change in our attitudes and behavior so that our lives are closer to the Ideal as expressed in the text?
2. *From Daily Life to the Constitutions.* Put together all suggestions about possible amendments, modifications or comments about the legislative text, so it expresses more clearly and relevantly what it wishes to convey.

All contributions made from this section are to be collected and transmitted in writing to the Council of the Circumscription which makes a summary of the work done by the communities, and sends this to the International Commission (email: constocd@gmail.com). It is necessary that a religious is appointed in every Circumscription who will be in-charge of coordinating and animating the process of rereading the Constitutions in their respective areas and serve as the Circumscription's contact person with the General Definitory and the International Commission.

The International Commission will prepare the corresponding materials from data received from the whole Order. From these data the Extraordinary Definitory of 2018 will discern the concrete course of action to be taken in relation to the Constitutions, in preparation for the General Chapter of 2021.



ITINERARY: FIRST PHASE: OCTOBER 2015 – JUNE 2018

Study Guide	Texts	Timetable
		2015
0	Reading of the Chapter Document “It is Time to Walk On”	October-December
		2016
1	Chapter I.1 (Nos. 01-18): Our Ideal	January-February
2	Chapter I.3 (Nos. 47-52): The Blessed Virgin Mary in Our Life	February-March
3	Chapter I.2 (Nos. 19-34): The Following of Christ in the Way of Religious Consecration (Chastity and Poverty)	April-May
4	Chapter I.2 (Nos. 35-46): The Following of Christ in the Way of Religious Consecration (Obedience and Evangelical Self-denial)	May-June
5	Chapter I.4 (Nos. 53-71): Communion with God	September-October
6	Chapter I.5 (Nos. 72-86): Fraternal Sharing in the Community	November-December
		2017
7	Chapter I.6 (Nos. 87-103): Our Order’s Apostolic Role (Nos. 87-93; 97-103); Mission (Nos. 94-96)	January-June (Provincial Chapters)
8	Chapter II.1 (Nos. 104-126): Recruitment and Formation	September-October
9	Chapter II.2-3 (Nos. 127-142): Membership, Rights and Obligations, Correction	November-December

		2018
10	Chapter III.1-3 (Nos. 143-195): The Government of the Order	January-February
11	Chapter III.4-7 (Nos. 167-229) Offices: General, Provincial and Local; The Administration of Goods	March-April
12	Conclusion and Proposals	May-June

Proposals from every Circumscription should be sent to the International Commission at the end of every semester (that is, at the end of the months of July 2016, January 2017, July 2017, January 2018 and July 2018).



General House
Discalced Carmelites
Rome