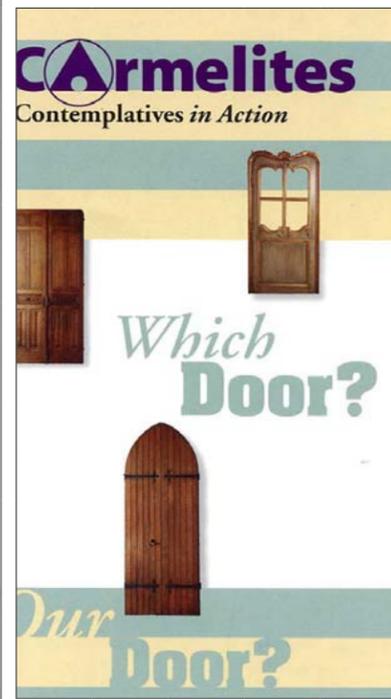


## Carmelite Friars - Vocations



### The Carmelite Call

There is nothing as confusing as the search for the community which will best nurture your calling and desire to live the Word. You ask yourself, "Which Door?"

We are the men who follow the Rule of Carmel. Some as priests. Some as brothers. We join together in prayer, fraternity and service living in the Spirit of Mary and Elijah. Our lives and our ministry are the means we use to live this out.

We invite you to "listen" to some of the "whys" of our members. Call for a brochure to hear our stories. See if they resonate with you. If so, we look forward to you coming through our door for a visit, a chat and your consideration of life as a Carmelite Friar.

**Father John Horan, O. Carm.**  
Vocation Director, Saint Elias Province  
(845) 344-2225



**Contemplatives in Action**

**Mission Statement**  
As Carmelites of the North American Province of St. Elias, our primary mission is to follow Jesus Christ through prayer, fraternity, and prophetic service and presence in the spirit of Mary and Elijah. Our chief means for fulfilling this mission is by our lives and ministries. Therefore, we need to develop and encourage a sense of contemplative service to all God's people, with special attention to the poor and to developing lay participation in the Church.

**Carmelites**  
Contemplatives in Action

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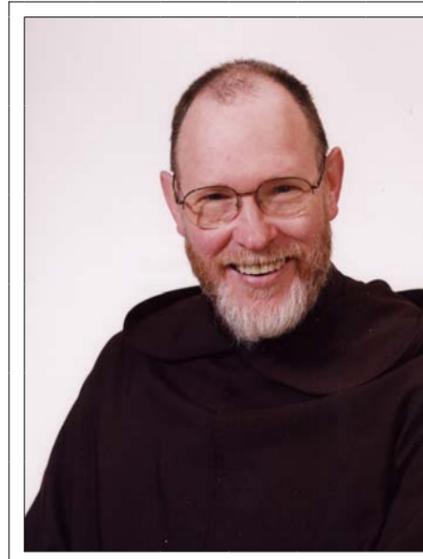
# Vox Eliae

Provincial Newsletter of the North American  
Province of Saint Elias

Winter 2004-05



## Father Paul Denault Commissioned For Formation Ministry in Vietnam



Father **Paul Denault, O. Carm.** has been preparing for his new assignment over the past two years. Having completed his tenure as the Province's Novice Director (1994-2003), Father Paul attended several programs in missioning to help prepare him for the transition of becoming a Formator in Vietnam.

On Sunday, February 6, 2005, friends, family and other Carmelites came together for liturgy and to witness the missioning ceremony of Father Paul Denault at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, NY.

Prior Provincial, Father Michael Kissane, O. Carm., said in his homily, "Fr. Paul is being sent in the name of the St. Elias Province to work in our mission in Vietnam. His primary ministry will be working in the formation program that we have set up to respond to the desire of many young Vietnamese men to become Carmelite Friars."

Missionary work or 'missiology' has changed over the years. Gone are the days when missionaries primarily worked among pagans converting them to Catholicism. Gone are the days of bringing the message of Jesus Christ to a foreign country. Fr. Paul is not going to be a missionary in the 'old' sense of the word. We Carmelites began our foundation in Vietnam to bring the male branch of the Order there. We went there because there were quite a few men who desired to be Carmelites. So, Fr. Paul, on our behalf, goes to Vietnam for that mission.-to spread the Carmelite charism and work with and encourage those who are interested in our Order.

Father Paul Denault is a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and one of seven children born to Roger and Muriel Denault. he was professed a Carmelite on June 18, 1976 in Williamstown, Massachusetts and ordained to the priesthood on October 11, 1980 at St. Joseph's Church in Troy, New York. Following his ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Paul served as a Chaplain at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan while residing at Our Lady of the Scapular Church on East 28th Street. In 1985 he was assigned as a Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church where he served until 1993.

He attended a year-long program at St. Louis University, in St. Louis, Missouri in 1993 in order to prepare himself for formation work within the Province of St. Elias. For the next nine years he utilized that training as Novice Director at Brandsma Priory in Middletown. During the years of 1994-2000 he also served the Province as the Provincial Procurator and either chaired or participated on several Commissions of the Province from 1983 to the present.

During the past two years Father Paul has been preparing for this new journey in Carmel. He participated in programs to prepare himself for living in a foreign

culture and completed a program certifying him as a Teacher of English as a Second Language. It is hoped that he will be able to secure work of this type while in Vietnam.

The Foundation in Vietnam began in 1996 and has grown steadily over the years. Presently we have eight professed Vietnamese students attending Theology studies in Washington, D.C., one Novice in Middletown, NY, and three pre-Novices in our pre-novitiate program. Father **Mario Esposito, O. Carm.** has been working with other professed students and candidates in Vietnam for the past several years. Father Paul will join him and assist with the ongoing work of formation in the Carmelite way of life.

And as Father Michael addressed Father Paul at the missioning ceremony, "Keep your focus. Let your light shine. Be salt of the earth. Do not be afraid to share yourself, to question and to learn. And always remember that the mission is not about you or about what we want. It's about Jesus Christ. If you keep that focus, you will be light to the world and salt of the earth. Know that as you take on this mission in the name of the Province, you do so with our support and the support of your family. May God bless you and be with you as you share the Carmelite spirit with the people of Vietnam."

A warm reception was held in Pilgrim Hall at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel following the Mass and missioning ceremony where family and friends were able to greet Father Paul and wish him well in his new ministry. "I'm very excited about the trip and my new assignment," said Father Paul, "I've visited Vietnam before and found it to be a beautiful country with very warm and friendly people."

Father Paul can be contacted through his email: [paulencarm@netscape.net](mailto:paulencarm@netscape.net) or by regular U.S. mail at P.O. Box 3079, Middletown, NY 10940.

**VOX ELIAE**  
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## New Provincial House

Submitted by Gus Graap, O. Carm.

Because Saint Albert's was filled and our Provincial, Mike Kissane, as kind of scrambling for living space, it was decided during the summer of 2003 to look around the general area North of Middletown for a house that could accommodate Mike and the two priests covering St. Paul's in Bullville and Our Lady of the Assumption in Bloomingburg, Pat McGuigan and Ray Bagdonis. More than thirty houses were looked at before the one on Wellesley Road in Bloomingburg was chosen. It was decided that Gus Graap should also reside in that house.

The building is really ideal for its purposes. It puts Pat and Ray closer to their churches, and is just a little further commute for Mike and Gus. The house is located almost half-way up the mountain about three miles West of the center of Bloomingburg. The other homes in the area are nicely spaced, but there is still new construction going on. It is actually in Sullivan County.

The size and layout of the house is ideal for us. Everyone comments that we got "a lot of house" for our money. The basement floor consists of a kind of downstairs apartment, formerly used by one of the sons of the previous owner. It has one large bedroom

with a small adjoining bedroom, a bath, and a large sitting area. The other 2/5 of the basement is somewhat unfinished. One portion houses a good-sized storage area plus furnace and water tanks. The other has a pool table and could be finished as a sort of game room or whatever.

The first floor has a large living room plus a dining room and kitchen. There's a deck outside, plus a nice large rec-room with fireplace and a two car garage. The second floor has five good-sized bedrooms and two full bathrooms, plus a small deck outside the master bedroom. Above that is more storage space in an unfinished attic. Outside the basement rooms is an in-ground swimming pool, with a small yard adjoining.

The building was formerly owned by Mary Matthews, wife of the former Pastor of the Grace Episcopal Church in Middletown, the late Rev. James Matthews. He died about 5 years ago. They did not build the house themselves in 1978, but they resided in it for a number of years.

As we looked over the basement level of the house, while Mary still lived there,

we saw a great number of framed photos of Rev. Matthews' tenure in Middletown. One of the most interesting was an article from the local newspaper around 1968, showing him and Fr. Leo Broniszewski together at the first Ecumenical event held in Middletown after Vatican II. Mary was delighted to see the house staying in the "religious family."

The present community took up residence on September 17, 2003. We planned an open house on December 14th of that year, but it was cancelled due to a serious snowstorm. However, due to a number of meetings scheduled in the house and a few dinner visitors, a good number of the men of the Province have seen the house by now.

Of course, other members of the Province are always welcome, although we only have a cook one evening a week on Tuesdays.

### Vox Eliae

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The Provincial House on Wellesley Road in Bloomingburg, NY

## Carmelite News Makers

### Teacher Uses The Florida Catholic in Religion Class

By Mary Yuhas and Linda Reeves,  
"Florida Catholic", Boca Raton



Brother Robert Bathe, O. Carm.

There is a religion class offered at Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, Florida that is so popular with the students, every semester students rush to sign up for it. The interesting thing is the class is not required, but is offered in addition to religion classes students must take to graduate. The class for seniors called "Peer Leadership" is taught by Carmelite Brother Robert Bathe, who has a deep Southern accent, contagious smile and unique teaching approach teens seem to like. Peer Leadership is designed to teach young people how to walk in the footsteps of Christ by serving others. The class also helps students gain an insight into their own faith, spirituality and talents in order to strengthen all aspects of their lives.

Veronica Cinnirella thinks she knows why Brother Bathe's classes are so popular. "He really connects with us," said Veronica, 18, of Boca Raton. "He is open, and he listens to us." Others at Pope John Paul II High School have their own ideas about why students flock to his classes. "Brother Bathe always has a smile and is willing to help," said Maura Pasquale, a school secretary. "He is a man of strong faith."

Brother Robert, 36, joined Pope John Paul II High School two years ago. Fondly called "Tennessee Bob" by staff and friends because of his love for country music and roots that stem back to his homeland, he is a religion teacher as well as the campus chaplain. As chaplain, he addresses the spiritual needs of faculty, administrative staff and students and leads retreats and spiritual field trips. In his free time, he attends school athletic games, fund-raisers and other school activities, showing support for the students and their endeavors. As part of Brother Robert's teaching job, he conducts two one-hour religion classes each semester. This

semester, his classes contain 23 students in one class and 28 in the other, which is rather large for a class at Pope John Paul II. One interesting teaching element used in the class is *The Florida Catholic*. Last semester, Brother Bathe asked students to search for articles in *The Florida Catholic* that touched on issues that affected, influenced or interested them. Students chose articles on abortion and dealing with boredom in prayer. Another selected a story focusing on how some Haitian deportations were suspended after Archbishop John C. Favalora intervened on their behalf. The students summarized the articles and wrote down what they'd learned from them. Then, an open forum was held for discussions. *The Florida Catholic* writes about what other Catholics are thinking and doing," said Brother Robert. "I think the paper helps the students connect to the Catholic community. It helps promote their cultural Catholic identity." He hopes that *The Florida Catholic* will help his students become aware that Catholics all over the state and throughout the world are united in their beliefs. "I want the students to become aware that they are a part of a much larger Catholic community."

This semester Brother Bathe says he is trying something a little different to his teaching approach. He is encouraging his students to get the news from secular media sources in addition to *The Florida Catholic* in order to teach a lesson in newspaper reporting. The lesson focuses on how media sources, reporters and editors cover the same issues but present them with different angles and slant news articles in different ways to take on whole new meanings. "I hope to expand their horizons," said Brother Robert, who strongly emphasizes that it is important for the students to read Catholic publications and get the Catholic point of view, which is not apparent in the rest of the media. "It is good to have a paper you can trust."

### The Year of the Eucharist—All Night Vigil in Maracas Valley

Catholic News, Port of Spain, Trinidad

The St. Michael's Church in Maracas Valley, St. Joseph, began their Year of the Eucharist with an intense zeal. Fr. Vincent Pazhukkakulam, O. Carm. (India), parish priest for the community at St. Michael's since October, 2004, has displayed his love for the Eucharist by awakening this zeal. He started visiting and blessing

homes in Acono Road, where one of the community chapels, St. Theresa's is located. This he will continue during the Year of the Eucharist. He also had excerpts of the encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II included in the parish newsletter, the St. Michael's Messenger. With this information already in the hands of his parishioners and an interest in the Eucharist awakened and refreshed, he informed them of an all-night vigil to be held. The vigil was to follow the Saturday evening Mass and culminate in the Mass on Sunday morning. All parish groups were immediately given notice and a special hour devotion to them for their prayers. This plan was brilliant as all groups were present for their hour, and there were at least 40 persons before the Blessed Sacrament each hour. Fr. Vincent spoke at all the Masses on the importance of the Eucharist, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Communion and Confession. He encouraged all to prepare themselves and keep awake for the Lord's coming. Immediately after Mass a crown of



Fr. Vincent, O. Carm.

lights was placed over the Blessed Sacrament and the overhead lights were dimmed. Two candles were placed on each side of the Monstrance. This simple act encouraged a deeper adoration for many. The St. Michael's Choir led the vigil with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in a meditative melody followed by hymns, seasonal prayers and periods of silence, setting the tone for the vigil. The Vigil ended with a 7:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Fr. Vincent then invited all to the breakfast sharing that was coordinated by the Legion of Mary and thanked all who contributed to the sharing and supported the all-night vigil, especially those who stayed throughout the night and attended the Mass.

## What Have Your Read Lately?

### Iain Matthew: The Impact of God

Book Review by

Rev. Daniel Lynch, O. Carm.

We all have tried to read John of the Cross. His writings are recognized classics in spirituality, and he is one of us, a Carmelite. But, many of us have had little success because he is a hard read, and we must admit to ourselves that we cannot do what John is proposing.

John writes in his introduction that "Some people will find difficulty reading this due to my awkward style." And again, John writes in Chapter 14 of Ascent 1, "the soul cannot do these things till it is fired up with longings for spiritual things." That is why John rushes through the first 15 chapters. He seems to be in a hurry to get past what we might do, and get to what God does.

This is where Iain Matthew steps in. His presentation of John's writings has a gentle poetic flow in place of John's "awkward style." In John's writings there is nothing about himself. Matthew spends the first two chapters on John's roots, his sufferings, his choices. And throughout "The Impact of God" Matthew shows the whys of some of John's thoughts.

Matthew immediately jumps to John's last and most touching book, The Living Flame of Love. Here John tires to put into words what no words can capture, God's love for us. John's poetry helps in his "awkward style: John presents a self-outpouring God. A God burning with Love for us. Waiting to possess us. A passionate God who never rests in His pursuit of you, His beloved. The Impact of God is replete with footnoted excerpts from John's works so that you can easily go back to the source.

After Matthew introduces us to the wonderful image of God in The Living Flame of Love he goes to The Spiritual Cantic and finally touches on The Ascent of Mount Carmel. The book that turns many people off with its "nada, nada, nada." If we have thought the idea of a fiery, in-rushing, passionately loving God, and begin to realize that something in our lives is blocking His entry, we will try to clear the way. And if we try, God will do it for us. Matthew deals with this topic in chapter 7, and then touches on it throughout the book.

The Dark Night is dealt with in Chapters 9-14. In that night, we begin to realize that we are not really running the show. Something ... Someone else is calling the shots. Six great chapters where Matthew shows that John presents the problem and the solution. Matthew's The Impact of God is a good read. *Hodder and Stoughton, 38 Euston Road, London, NW1 3BH*

## Annual Golf Tournament Benefits National Shrine

By Gloria Mullarkey

This past July, the Carmelite Friars hosted their 16th Annual Padre Golf Tournament at a private country club here in Middletown, New York. It was the first year in anyone's recollection that it rained on this fundraising event. With all of our organizing, we couldn't organize the weather! Yet, it was a tribute to our golfer enthusiasts who all showed up, despite the weather, and who showed such good humor while having to golf in between the raindrops. Obviously

he rain could not "dampen their spirits!" They did, however, have great incentives to stay out on the course since there were two fabulous prizes for a Hole-in-One. A lucky golfer could have claimed a prize of \$10,000 or a 2004 Chevy Impala.

Good food, beverages and prizes were also the order of the day. As well as enjoying hospitality on the course, our Padre Golfers enjoyed a buffet lunch before the shotgun start, and the

a sit down dinner and socializing after completing 18 holes of golf. Many guests also just came to dinner. And all of our guests have a chance to win one of the great door prizes donated by our generous local businesses.

The Carmelites are grateful to all the golfers who support the Tournament year after year, as well as the many dinner guests, volunteers, Journal advertisers, Tee Sponsors, buyers of raffle tickets and prize donors. The Tournament is a fun, social event that raises much needed funds. This year the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel benefited from the Padre Golf fundraiser. In previous years, funds were used for the benefit of our elderly and infirm Carmelites. Generally, the funds are directed where the need is greatest.

If you are not on the Padre Golf list and are interested in enjoying a day of golf at a private country club or would just like to join the Carmelites for dinner, please call (845) 344-0876 to receive a Padre Golf brochure. The 2005 Tournament will be held on Monday, August 8 at the Otterkill Country Club in Campbell Hall, New York.



## The Future of Carmel



The Annual All-Student Gathering took place at Whitefriars Hall in Washington, D.C. on Martin Luther King Weekend, January 14-16, 2005. Formators and Carmelite students from both the St. Elias Province and the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province came together for community, fraternity and spirituality.

A keynote address was given by Dr. Charles Gravenstine, who is a professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He spoke on "Family Systems and Community Life." Brother **Emiel Abalahin** noted, "The presentation by Dr. Charles was an informative one. He helped us to look at different familial and relational paradigms, and helped us to engage more fully in the process of knowing ourselves and one another better."

On Saturday evening the students and formators went to see the movie, "Hotel Rawanda", a film depicting the genocide of the Tutsi tribe there in 1994 and one man's efforts to save over a thousand people by harboring them in his hotel.

Some trips to see the historical Washington, D.C. landmarks were organized in order to provide an opportunity to enjoy the unique landscape of our Nation's Capitol.

Food for the Festive International Lunch was prepared early in the morning by various students and during lunchtime all enjoyed the various ethnic diversity of the many cultures seen in today's Carmelite student population. "The internationally of the Gathering was remarkable," said Brother **Joseph Viet Dinh**, "America, Mexico, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, England, Peru, Italy, Trinidad and Tobago and Kenya—it was really a good, unique and beautiful experience to have."

There was time for work sessions of various levels of formation: pre-novices, novices, interns, and student meetings. Individual communities of students were responsible for preparing Morning/Evening prayer and liturgies. Brothers Emiel Abalahin and Andrew White (PCM) were the Music Coordinators, Brother Joseph Viet Dinh was the Sacristan and Brother Jeff

Smialek (PCM) was the Transport Coordinator

Brother **Joseph Hung Tran** summed up the weekend, "I really enjoyed the weekend. Thanks to all who put the program together so that we (students) have a chance to know one another better. It is not only a time to nourish us through he lectures, but it is also a time to nourish us through the sharing of ourselves with our brothers. It's a time of happiness, a time of joy of community life and of being present. The program allows us to appreciate our roots and the Carmelite charism."

Fathers **Raymond Maher** and **William Wert** (PCM), Formation Directors at Whitefriars Hall hosted and organized the weekend.

The students in the Carmelite Formation programs are already anticipating next year's Gathering and are looking forward to renewing old friendships and meeting new members of the Carmelite Order.

## The Carmelite NGO

What is The Carmelite NGO? It is a non-government organization affiliation to the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. It is a project of the members of the Carmelite Family around the world. Sisters **Jane Remson**, O. Carm., and **Helen Ojario**, O. Carm., of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lacombe, Louisiana were responsible for completing the NGO application process with the United Nations, having begun the process in September, 2000. On December 4, 2001, the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Sisters received approval as a recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliation with the United Nations Department of Public Information. In its application, the Sisters of Mount Carmel included the Carmelite Order in part of its work, thereby giving status with the United Nations to the Order.

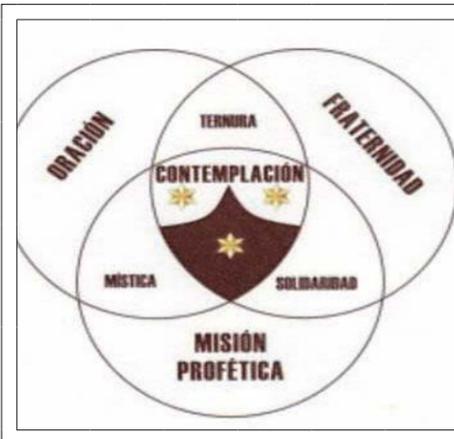
The 57th Annual DPI/NGO (Department of Public Information/Non-Government Organizations) Conference was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on September 8-10, 2004. The theme of the conference was "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action." Over 2700 people participated, representing more than 700 NGOs (of about 1400 affiliated to the UN) from 90 countries. Seven members of the Carmelite Family attended all or parts of the conference. They included three members of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. (Louisiana), one

from the Sisters of the Aged and Infirm, two from the Carmelite Order, and one Lay Carmelite. The OCD NGO representative also attended the conference and met with the O. Carm. Representatives. This year, portions of the three-day conference were webcast live around the world on an interactive United Nations website.

The UN Millennium Development Goals are as follows:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

In reality, our Carmelite NGO is just beginning to generate awareness of the Millennium Goals among the members of the various branches of the Carmelite Family. However, it is clear that most of



The symbol of the Carmelite NGO: The three circles are like three wheels that create movement, setting the life of the members of the Carmelite Family in motion. Prayer brings tenderness when we decide to live in community. Community brings solidarity when we come into contact with the needs of our sisters and brothers. The prophetic defense of human rights of both individuals and peoples is born of the consciousness that we are responsible for one another. It brings holy zeal, and increases our thirst for justice

the goals have a direct connection to the work of Carmelite men and women throughout the world. It will be helpful for the theologians, as well as those working in the various justice, peace, and integrity of creation initiatives in our Provinces and Congregations to help us connect to the goals.

The Millennium Development Goals are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives around the world, agreed on by all 189 UN member states at the Millennium Summit in September, 2000. For each of the eight goals, one or more targets have been set, most for 2015, using 1990 as a benchmark

In a taped video speech to the assembly, Secretary-General, Kofi A. Annan told participants that there is not time to lose in ending extreme poverty and putting the world on a more humane and just path. He highlighted that people everywhere wanted a fair chance for themselves and their children.

*This article on the Carmelite NGO was reprinted from CITOC, with permission. For further information, visit the website: [www.carmelites.info/ngo](http://www.carmelites.info/ngo)*



Presentation of the Carmelite Document: (L-R): Fr. John Sullivan, O.C.D., Paul Hoeffel, Chief NGO at U.N., Sr. Jane Remson, O. Carm., Fr. William J. Harry, O. Carm., Sr. Helen Ojario, O. Carm., Sr. Clare Cramer, O. Carm. and Sr. Marcella Bean, O. Carm..  
Photo provided by CITOC, reprinted with permission.

## Do We Have A Place At The Table?

The idea of the Carmelites becoming an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) has left some asking, "Why?" They can not make the link between our Carmelite journey and the road provided by an organization such as the United Nations. Initially I could not understand why we would seek a role at the UN myself.

The Carmelite NGO is now a reality, primarily through the good efforts of members of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Louisiana. However, participation has gradually expanded to ways to make sure societies emerge from wars. Ms. Robinson never once mentioned any of those tried and tired solutions. She spoke about conflict being overcome by forgiveness and reconciliation, the transformation of the people from warriors to people focused on the good in each other.

It is a fair question. Are Carmelites not supposed to be focused on proclaiming the Gospel? Have we not discovered that our uniqueness is in being prophetic in the tradition of Elijah and in following the example of Mary? For centuries have Carmelites not usually waited for the people in our churches, schools, retreat centers and behind monastic walls? Definitely so!

But there is also a part of our Carmelite tradition that calls us to be present in the market place—where there is a good chance we will encounter people who do not share our love of God. A market place will likely provide us an opportunity to brush up against people who do not understand or even know our Carmelite traditions. It might also be the place where we can prove to be most prophetic. Does not our Carmelite tradition ask us to seek our God in places and events which may be non traditional? Are we not called to rely on that mysterious Spirit that blows where it will? Could not this new market place be more receptive to and need Carmelite spirituality more than we might first think?

At the 2002 UN NGO Conference, on the topic of "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility," the opening session took place in the impressive General Assembly Hall, the most familiar venue at the United Nations. The keynote speaker was Mary Robinson, both much admired and much hated for her outspokenness against injustices as United Nations Commissioner

for Human Rights. She stood at the same podium where presidents, prime ministers, two popes, dictators, and an endless procession of ambassadors have spoken on behalf of the people of the world governments for the last half century. The Carmelites who were present took seats usually reserved for ambassadors and their staffs, our first few steps into this particular marketplace.

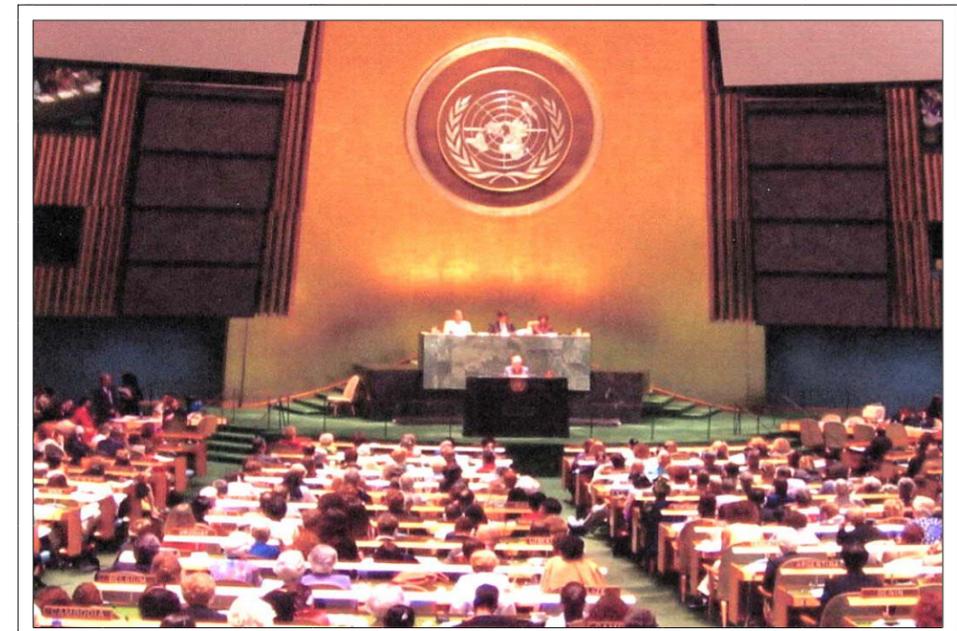
I expected to hear about the need for money, the value of the peacekeeping forces, the fostering of better communication between governments as ways to make sure societies emerge from wars. Ms. Robinson never once mentioned any of those tried and tired solutions. She spoke about conflict being overcome by forgiveness and reconciliation, the transformation of the people from warriors to people focused on the good in each other.

If we needed an answer to the often asked question about the purpose of our presence at the UN, Ms. Robinson gave it to us, loud and clear. She said that nothing is really going to change on the world scene until the world's peoples experience the very things that we seek in our own lives as Carmelites—forgiveness, reconciliation, and transformation of the human person.

It struck me that after 800 years of practice we certainly have a few suggestions on how this might occur in the various cultures and situations around the world. Carmelites have never come out of one mold. We 'do' our charism in a variety of ways. We learn from our saints that there are a variety of ways to approach our God. But each approach requires that the human person change. Only then is the possibility of any real communion with our God and neighbor possible.

Our need to be at the table was only reinforced during the 2004 UN DPI/NGO Conference. Yes. Carmelites belong in the churches, the schools, the retreat centers, and the monasteries. But we also belong in the larger marketplace. Carmelites belong anywhere people will benefit from Carmelite spirituality. The United Nations just happens to be one more of the untested marketplaces in our world today. But it is available to us now. I heard that marketplace clearly asking for us to come forward and teach what we know about the Gospel value of transformation. We have been asked to become a part of the world's healing process and to help build the human community. Why would we not take the opportunity to serve God's and God's people in this way?

William J. Harry, O. Carm.  
Carmelite General Council  
Representative/Carmelite NGO



The United Nations Assembly in New York, New York  
Photo provided by CITOC, reprinted with permission.