

What Is The Carmelite NGO Doing In The World?

Creating understanding among all faith communities. Promoting **peace** in regions of conflict. New opportunities for children **and** adults in poverty. Ensuring **justice** and human rights. **Sharing** Pope Francis' teachings on caring for **God's** creation. Promoting earth-care education for youth on all continents. Care and **love** for suffering peoples. Financing for anti-poverty ventures. Working **for** sustainable development in rich and poor countries. Fighting human trafficking, and supporting and re-training survivors. Ensuring fresh air, clean water for **all** people. Caring for the elderly.

CARMELITE NGO ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



THE FOCUS OF THE CARMELITE NGO AT THE UNITED Education, Freedom *of* Belief, Human Rights AND



Carmelite NGO Has A Place At The International Table

Sr. Jane Remson, O.Carm. Main Representative of the Carmelite NGO to the United Nations

The Carmelite NGO was established in 2001 to assist the men and women of the Carmelite Family in actively participating in creating a more peaceful, just and loving world by advocating and caring for the spiritual and human needs of the family and the environment.

The Carmelite NGO focuses its efforts in the areas of: education for all children; freedom of belief that allows Carmelites to share the Elijan tradition with Judaism and Islam; human rights especially the right to food and the right to personal security; and sustainable development that puts Carmelites on the front lines of saving our planet.

To accomplish its goal, the Carmelite NGO actively participates at all levels of decision-making—from the individual deciding what affects the individual person, the family, nation and to those decisions that affect the common good of all no matter where they live on Earth.

The Carmelite NGO is a way for its members to expose the United Nations to both the voices of “the people” and the values of the Carmelite way of life—an 800-year-old tradition within the Catholic Church.

The preamble of the United Nations Charter states, “We the peoples of the United Nations are determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...”

Carmelites are most often found in churches, schools, retreat centers, and monasteries. But, Carmelites also belong in the marketplace. Carmelites belong anywhere where people will benefit from Carmelite spirituality. The United Nations happens to be the most comprehensive of these marketplaces in our world today.



Dennis Kalob, Carmelite NGO Chief Administrative Officer, at United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Carmelite NGO is a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and affiliated with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations.

NATIONS IS ON Sustainable Development.



Diverse Carmelite Family United By Contemplation

*Joseph Chalmers, O.Carm.
International Liaison Carmelite NGO*

The Carmelite NGO has played an important role within the Carmelite Family for a number of years and has been a natural outgrowth of our contemplative spirituality. Carmel has been synonymous with prayer since its beginnings way back in the 13th century when the first group gathered on Mt. Carmel. They chose to establish their home in a place of strife in order to spread peace by their quiet lives dedicated to God through prayer and contemplation.

As they spread throughout the world over the centuries, Carmelites branched out into various apostolic ministries, trying to touch the lives of people in practical ways wherever they went. However, running through all their ministerial commitments was the commitment to a life of prayer which permeated everything they did.

Today Carmelites can be found in very many cultures and ways of life. Carmelite men and women are very different; they speak a wide variety of languages and come from disparate experiences but they are united by their commitment to follow Jesus Christ according to the path shaped by so many before them. All the elements of the Carmelite way of following Jesus are united by the concept of contemplation, which expresses a longing to cut through all the external things which so often divide people in order to find that which unites all men and women in a greater unity.

When the opportunity came for the Carmelite Family to become affiliated to the UN as an NGO, this seemed to be an ideal way for the Carmelites to spread their message even further and to learn from the UN ways of working and goals so that they might operate in ever more effective ways for people throughout the world. I think that both the Carmelites and the UN have benefited from the mutual exchange of ideas and ideals. Long may this partnership continue!

BACKGROUND



MOUNT CARMEL

Discovering *the* Inner Springs of God's Love

It all began on Mt. Carmel, a coastal mountain range in northern Israel named for the Hebrew word for fresh or vineyard. Mt. Carmel is where the prophet Elijah built an altar to God.

Around 1206, Christian hermits founded the Carmelite religious order—one of the original Catholic medieval orders—on Mt. Carmel near a spring called Elijah's fountain. There, through meditation and prayer, Carmelites discovered the “inner spring” of eternal life.

Moving to Europe in 1247, the Carmelites began centuries of ministering to the people. For more than 800 years, the Carmelite Family—nuns, sisters, priests, brothers, congregations, hermits, lay Carmelites and saints/blesseds—have served to satisfy a thirst for God, Community, and Justice.





Laudato Si' Curriculum Is Changing The World

When Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home* in 2015, the Carmelite NGO recognized its importance.

Laudato Si' touched on all goals of the Carmelite NGO, especially environmental stewardship, education, freedom of indigenous peoples, sustainable development and human rights.

The NGO responded with a big idea—a way to teach *Laudato Si'* principles and show how they impact people in all aspects of their daily lives. Working with the faculty of a Carmelite school in Tucson, AZ, Salpointe Catholic High School, the NGO created the Curriculum on *Laudato Si'* For Secondary Schools. These lessons enable teachers to incorporate *Laudato Si'* into the entire high school curriculum.

The goal is to show that *Laudato Si'* has a major impact on environmental sciences and theology instruction, and also is important in humanities and other subjects. *Laudato Si'* is an approach to living in harmony with theological, social justice and stewardship principles. It will help youth change the world for the better.

Within a year, the Salpointe faculty produced the 252-page Curriculum, and the Carmelite NGO made it available to all schools, including non-Catholic schools, throughout the world. It consists of dynamic, detailed, cross-curriculum lesson plans in subjects ranging from theology to biology to humanities. The Curriculum is geared to specific educational standards. Each lesson illuminates a particular section of the Encyclical.

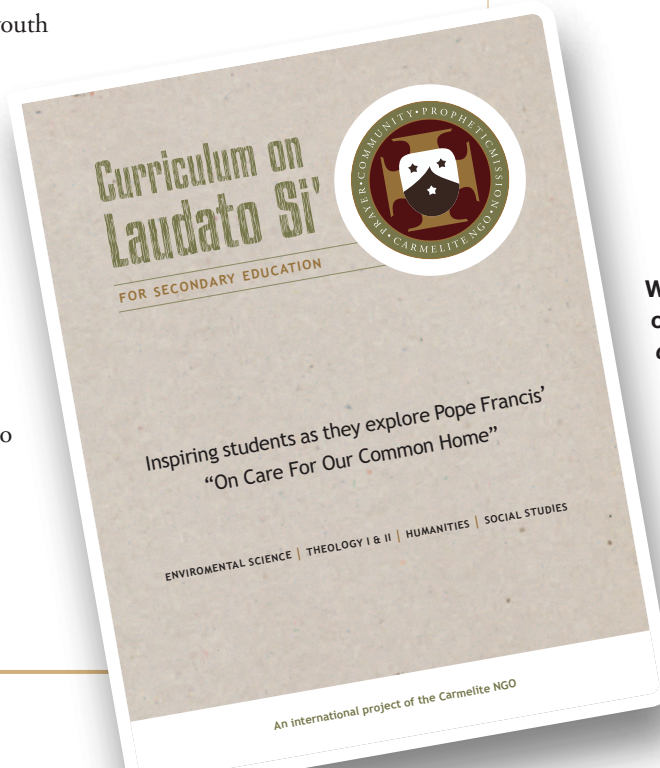
Easily accessible, the Curriculum is available in English and Spanish via downloads and hard copies through laudato-si-for-all.com. Downloads are \$6, hard copies are \$25. The Carmelite NGO also produced the *Laudato Si' Adult Study Guide* for persons, church and book groups and college classes.

The Carmelite NGO is promoting the Curriculum at educational conferences such as the National Catholic Educational Association. *Laudato Si'* is helping youth understand that earth-care is essential to Catholic social justice teaching.

At Salpointe, the faculty seeks to make *Laudato Si'* the start of a global change movement rather than a one-time project. To better incorporate *Laudato Si'* values into school life, Salpointe has started initiatives such as meatless days in the cafeteria and using alternatives to plastic bottles.



Laudato Si' is an approach to living in harmony with theological, social justice and stewardship principles. It will help youth change the world for the better.



WATCH a lively presentation on using the *Curriculum on Laudato Si'* in the classroom, given at an Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Schools conference: laudato-si-for-all.com.



Opposite page: At the Vatican in Rome in 2017, the *Curriculum on Laudato Si'* was adopted as a global model during the International Congress for Carmelite Secondary Schools. From left are Fr. Raul Maravi, O.Carm., Salpointe faculty member Kathleen McGarey-Vasey, Salpointe President Kay Sullivan and Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm., a professor and noted expert on climate change. Above left: Pope Francis takes a selfie with young people. Above right: Artwork from Salpointe students, created as part of their studies of *Laudato Si'*. Below: There are many ways to learn the lessons of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*. Students at Salpointe work in the school garden.





The Carmelite NGO works globally to ensure fresh water and clean air, reverse climate change, halt pollution and adapt practices to sustain the earth and human life—weaving these goals as commitments into every program it pursues.

Creating A World With Fresh Air, Clean Water, Healthy Environments For All

In his *Laudato Si'* Encyclical, Pope Francis points to the “urgent challenge to protect our common home...to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development.”

The Carmelite NGO works globally to create that change. Ensuring fresh water and clean air, reversing climate change, halting pollution and adapting practices to sustain the earth and human life—weaving this commitment into every program it pursues.

Thanks to Argentine professor Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm., a member of our Coordinating Committee, the Carmelite NGO has a place at the table where highest levels of sustainable development studies and actions are pursued. Known as Pope Francis’ climatologist, Fr. Scarel represents the Carmelite NGO internationally and publishes his research, makes presentations and participates in conferences.

As an active member of the Catholic Climate Covenant and Climate Action Network (USCAN), the Carmelite NGO also is active in grassroots changes. Eco-friendly boxed water has replaced plastic water bottles at Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson, AZ, where the *Curriculum on Laudato Si'* was developed.

In Indonesia, the Carmelite NGO taught youth at one of their study houses to make compost and start an organic plantation, using hydroponic methods. Young children in another program performed a play on the importance of caring for the earth.

The Carmelite NGO in Australia promotes sustainable development through activism on mining of fossil fuels, sustainable energy and protecting the environment.



Above left: Representing the Carmelite NGO at an important global conference promoting sustainability are Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm., left, a Carmelite NGO Coordinating team member, and Brother Aurie Kuil, O.Carm. Above, in Indonesia, sustainability is vital for sustenance of farmers. Center left: Fr. Scarel, who provided data for Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* Encyclical, is with the Pope at a conference observing the Encyclical's third anniversary. Below left: In Indonesia, the Carmelite NGO helps farmers grow crops in areas with low rainfall, using simple innovative techniques.



Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us... it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn.

*—Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 160*



Rescuing Victims Of Sex Trafficking, Helping Them Build Meaningful Lives

Women and children in rural, impoverished Zimbabwe are vulnerable. Men posing as recruiters come to their villages and promise them good jobs in Europe and the Middle East. There, far from home, women, as well as girls and boys, are forced into prostitution or labor enslavement. They have nowhere to turn for help.

Agape Leona is a saving grace for victims. This Carmelite NGO initiative, based in Harare, Zimbabwe, recovers victims of human trafficking, brings them home and supplies the love, support and practical skills needed to help them rebuild their lives.

Agape Leona has recovered more than 200 survivors of human trafficking. About 50 female survivors are receiving more help to further their education and learn a skill or trade. Agape Leona is led by Sr. Annah Theresa Nyadombo, PhD, a Religious Sister of the Congregation of the Handmaids of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and an expert in safeguarding human trafficking victims. “Our desire is to assist more survivors of human trafficking so that they can find their place in society again and live a fulfilling life with peace and joy,” she says.

The Agape Leona staff discovered many survivors want to start their own businesses. To help, they began offering training in business practices and specific skills. Agape Leona helps the women learn sewing, baking special-occasion cakes and raising poultry and other livestock. The women are growing businesses selling school uniforms and other clothing.

Agape Leona also helps survivors spread the word to other young people throughout the region, warning them about human trafficking and enhancing their self-esteem so they are less vulnerable.

Agape Leona works closely with African Catholic networks and other social welfare organizations to better serve survivors.

The United Nations estimates 21 million people are trafficked around the world, generating \$32 billion annually for criminals. The Carmelites at Agape Leona work daily to prevent more Africans from being victimized and to rescue more victims from this modern-day scourge and give them back their lives.



We must not allow these women, men, and children to be treated as objects, to be deceived, raped, often sold and resold for various purposes, and in the end either killed or left devastated in mind and body, only to be finally thrown away or abandoned. It is shameful.

—Pope Francis, 2013

Carmelite NGO Goes Around The World

Along with its commitment to serve throughout the world, the Carmelite NGO works in many ways to spread its message in multiple languages and cultures.

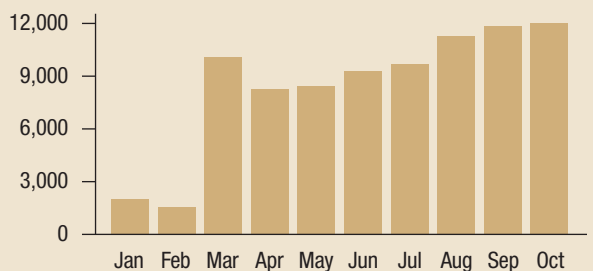
The website carmelitengo.org continues to pull in many visitors. A new website design features a fresh look, more resources and images from the Carmelite family.

Our publication, *carmelitengo*, distributed via 900 English copies and 300 Spanish copies, contains in-depth information about important topics. The Carmelite NGO also is active on Twitter. Visit carmelitengo.org to learn more.

Website Visitors By Country 2018

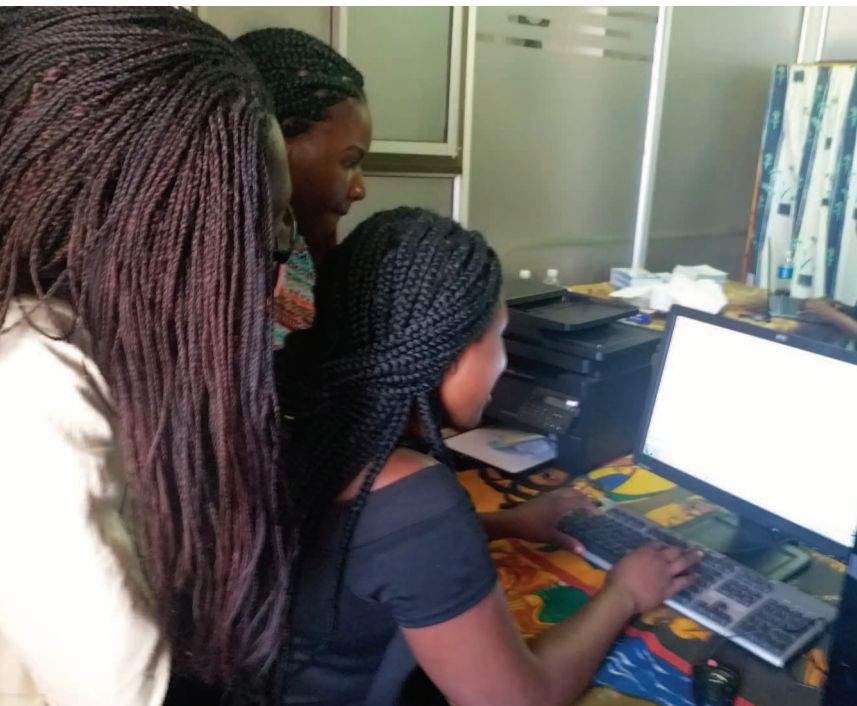
USA	457	Pakistan	19
India	82	Spain	18
China	67	Argentina	17
Phillipines	55	Algeria	16
France.....	31	Romania	16
Germany.....	36	South Africa.....	12
Poland	27	Turkey	12
Italy	25	UAE.....	11
Brazil.....	23	South Korea.....	10
Canada	22	Egypt	9

Website Usage By Website Hits 2017 (Jan.–Oct.)



Opposite page: Sr. Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC, PhD, founder, Agape Leona, with formerly trafficked women rebuilding their lives. At left, a woman learning commercial baking skills shows her progress. Below, a computer class for the women helps them build skills.

Working to ensure human rights to all people is key in many Carmelite NGO initiatives. We believe every person has a right to food, water, safety and freedom to live autonomous lives.





Above: The Carmelite NGO's House of Mercy serves children of all faith communities and elderly, who have no place else to live. Right: Youth from a Carmelite NGO study house learn to take pride in their heritage and customs by wearing traditional Indonesian dress.

Carmelite NGO Promotes Christian and Muslim Friendship: It Starts With Respect

The Carmelite NGO works intensely to create peace among people of all faiths in the island nation of Indonesia.

For 45 years, the Carmelites have improved countless lives by helping impoverished Indonesians in the Malang area. The Carmelite NGO expands on this legacy by sponsoring many programs designed to aid the poor and ease religious conflict.

A major initiative is sponsoring study houses, centers of learning where poor Christian and Muslim students gather for enrichment and support. In the study houses, Christian and Muslims respect each others' holidays. Friendship and understanding often begin with sharing a meal. The houses also provide treats such as milk—a luxury among Indonesians—recreation and instruction in skills as varied as traditional folk dancing and cooking.

In 2017, the NGO opened its House of Mercy, a beautiful refuge designed to house the elderly, often abandoned, and to enrich the lives of poor children. House of Mercy opens its doors to persons of all faiths and respects their traditions. The only requirement for seniors to live at House of Mercy is that they have no place else to go and no one to care for them.

The Carmelite NGO delivers a wealth of love and care to all Indonesians. In the process, they also foster respect and understanding.





When Young People Talk To Each Other, Friendship Can Result

How can persons of different faiths become friends in contentious times?

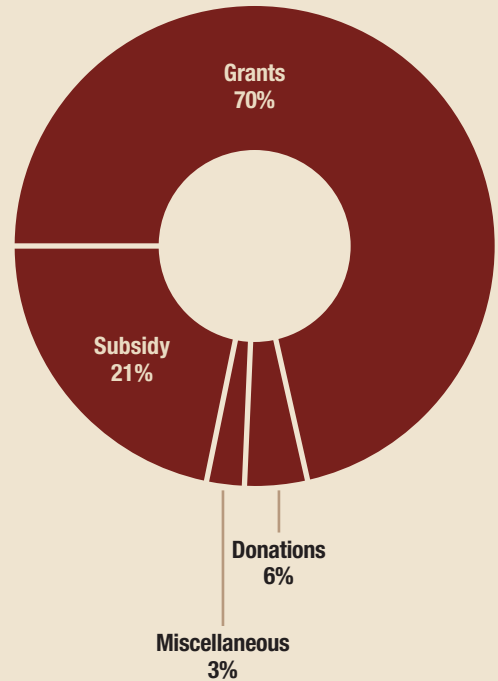
The Carmelite NGO found a way to get young people talking. In 2017, they sponsored an Interfaith Community & Collaboration study initiative, led by faculty and clergy at Loyola University in New Orleans.

Students in Loyola's Honors Program designed an interfaith dialogue workshop that focused on mentoring groups. Another workshop on "difficult conversations at the Thanksgiving table" helped students model handling conflict.

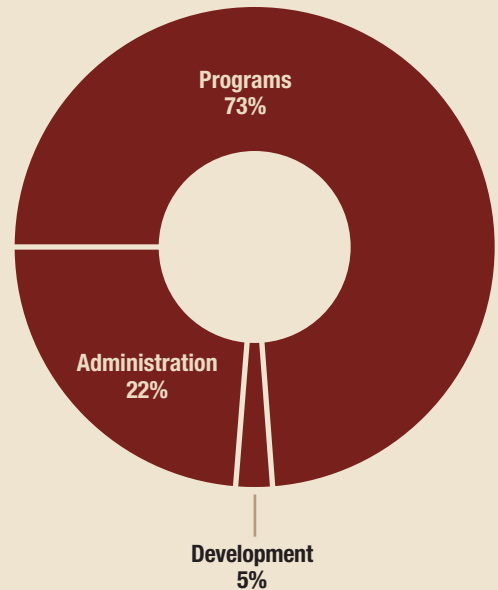
Students examined their own faith and ways to build bridges to other faiths, studying texts and using discovery-based learning. Eighteen students presented the programs to 115 other students and faculty, who continue to work for respect and collaboration among people of different faiths.



income



expenses



CARMELITE NGO COORDINATING TEAM

Jane Remson, O. Carm.
Main Representative

Joseph Chalmers, O. Carm.
International Liaison

Mary Blaise Fernando, O. Carm.
North America

Hariawan Adji, O. Carm.
Asia Pacific Region

Conrad Mutizamhempo, O. Carm.
Carmelite General Council

Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O. Carm.
South American Region / UNFCCC Representative

Andrea Ventimiglia
European Region

William J. Harry, O. Carm.
Communications

Committees North American Climate Change
Blaise Fernando, O. Carm.

Spirituality Reflection Team
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.
Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O. Carm.
Joseph Chalmers, O. Carm.

Animating Committee
Gabrielle Fogarty, TOC, Australia
Esther Martin Lozano, TOC, Iberian Peninsula
Jorge Monterroso, O. Carm., Central America
Annah Theresa Nyadombo, HOLMC, Africa
Renato Rallo, Europe
Mary Ellen Wheelahan, O. Carm., Asia
Rolf Nepomuk Willemsen, O. Carm., North America
Dennis Kalob, North America/New York City
Chief Administrative Officer

CARMELITE NGO

Jane Remson, O. Carm.
jfrems2@gmail.com
1725 General Taylor Street
New Orleans, LA 70115 USA
(+01) 504.458.3029
carmelitengo.org

 @carmelitengo.org

 facebook.com/carmelites

Join hands with the Carmelite NGO
as we help people around the world in
the areas of Education, Freedom of Belief,
Human Rights and Sustainable Development.



We are blessed by your prayers,
your involvement and
your financial support.

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