

# Communicationes N. 267

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## Museum

### "La Santa" Teresian Museum in Avila

**Avila-Spain, November 14, 2014 (Communicationes).- Fr Daniel de Pablo Maroto.** The museum is located in the crypt beneath the church and the west wing of the Discalced Carmelite Friars' monastery, an architectural complex opened in October 1636. Initially, the Carmelite planner used the existing gap between the current square, where sits the facade, and La Dama Street, to build the network of arches, pilasters and a maze of passage ways for the burial of the religious and persons who wished to be buried in a sacred place in the basement of the church, built on the spot where the recently canonized Teresa of Jesus was born.

The museum was opened to the public in 1999. Because of the beauty of its architecture and also for the wealth of its content, it could be considered as a Teresian museum that is unique in the world. The first thing the visitor admires is the structure in its totality, built in semicircular arches, supported on mighty pillars of granite blocks and brick, resting on the living rock of the subsoil, which is still visible in places. On them is supported the whole structure of the church and monastery.

All this framework of arches and buttresses forms a very original layout of passage ways which intersect, forming a harmonious architectural complex which, along with the background music, creates a climate that soothes the soul of the visitor carrying the torment of the din of large cities and their own personal concerns, as they arrive in this oasis of peace. It is a place of tranquility and serenity for deepening the thoughts, feelings, and memories that arise from the sights and sounds perceived. It is therapy for the everyday concerns that every mortal carries in their mental and emotional baggage.

The visitors' senses are stunned by what they see and hear; the mind is distracted by what all this suggests; there is almost no space left in the awareness to savor the contents of the various catacomb-like spaces. There are display cabinets and hangings which introduce us to

the childhood, adolescence and youth of Teresa, including a secluded yard where she played at being a nun and hermit with one of her brothers. The exhibition of books of her epoch document for the visitor the religious culture in her paternal home and in the Incarnation monastery.

Other objects, such as the reproduction of her cell in the reformed monastery of San Jose, remind us of her life traveling about as a reformer. There are places showing us her work as a writer, with abundant samples of her works translated into several European and Oriental languages. Finally, in a spacious hall, there is a reminder of her spiritual heritage represented in the saints of the Reform and the recollections of some of the celebrated Teresian experts.

It is impossible, with what has been said, to make the reader aware of and appreciate the objective value of everything contained in this grandiose and original museum. So, with these few short strokes of the pen, I would like to encourage you all to experience firsthand and to enjoy and spread knowledge of this treasure possessed by the city of Avila.

## Saints of the Order

### All the Carmelite Saints and Souls

**Rome-Spain, November 14, 2014 (Communicationes).- P. Javier de la Cruz-** The feast of all the Saints of the Order does not have any special origin. It comes from a practice common to monastic life and other religious Orders: to remember and pray for those who have gone before us in the Carmelite life.

From the Middle Ages, it was taught what ought to be the duties of all people as well as religious: first of all to love God; to pray for the dead, for all the dead, especially for family members, neighbours, relations and benefactors; to remember to imitate the Saints. In the fifteenth century, Bostio the Carmelite stated that "the true sons or brothers of the saints are not those who are united by bonds of blood, but those who imitate their works".

In a tiny poem, Saint Teresa invites her nuns to walk along the road to heaven: *Caminemos para el cielo, monjas del Carmelo*.

This is what is celebrated by the Carmelite Order on 14<sup>th</sup> November in the feast of All the Saints of the Order. The purpose of the journey or of the pilgrimage of all those who have worn the habit of Carmel, the habit of the Virgin, whether canonized or not, is to enjoy the presence of God.

It is a feast of delight and joy, since we remember the triumph of those we consider are our brothers and sister, those with whom we have shared the same vocation in Carmel. Teresa, our mother, invites us: "remember our holy fathers from the past and our holy hermits, whose life we try to imitate" and "Keep before your eyes our true founders, who are those holy fathers from whom we are descended who, we know, enjoy God through that road of poverty and humility".

This is the message of the feast of all the saints of the Order: "that we may be like them."

## V Centenario

### Opening in Venezuela of the Jubilee year in honour of our Mother, St Teresa of Jesus

**Caracas-Venezuela, November 14, 2014 (Communications).** – **Jonathan Pedroza.** We the members of Carmel in Venezuela met together in the Our Lady of Mt Carmel and St Joseph monastery of Los Chorros in Caracas city. The friars and students of the General Delegation of St Teresa of Los Andes gathered together in this city to open the jubilee year in honour of the fifth centenary of the birth of our Holy Mother, St Teresa of Jesus. Sharing this great joy with us were our brothers and sisters of Secular Carmel, representatives from our lay groups as well as members of various religious communities. Our hosts were the Caracas Discalced Carmelite nuns who had adorned the church in sober yet elegant manner and their affection and attentiveness filled the place.

Monsignor Aldo Giordana, the Pope's Nuncio in Venezuela, presided at the Eucharist. He openly expressed his pleasure at being in the midst of this family sharing so great an event for the Church in Venezuela and particularly for the Discalced Carmelite Order in this country.

From the early hours of the morning, brothers and sisters from various parts of the country arrived to take up their place.

The celebration began with a few apt words followed by a masterful rendition by the Bethany Chorale of "Master of light", the hymn for the fifth centenary. The entrance procession was headed by the relic of our Holy Mother, Teresa of Jesus.

Mons. Giordano's homily pointed out important aspects of the letter sent by Pope Francis to the Bishop of Avila, emphasizing Teresa as the "Pilgrim Saint".

In this environment of encounter and prayer, the Eucharistic celebration unfolded. Each chant, each reading, each word made us feel the very closeness of our Holy Mother and her invitation to know how to discern the signs of the times, in order to give answers to those "souls" who are thirsting to be enlightened in the spiritual pilgrimage leading to intimate union of love with Christ Jesus.

Thanks, Teresa, for truly you were born not for yourself, but for all of us!

## Flanders

### Opening of the fifth centenary in the Flanders Province

**Holland- November 14, 2014 (Communications).**- In Belgium, with a colorful celebration echoing the joyful spirit of our Holy Mother Teresa, the Flanders Province opened their fifth centenary celebrations of her birth.

To begin the fifth centenary a "day for the Carmelite family" was organized, in which around 200 people took part – friars, Carmelite nuns, OCDS members and religious from affiliated institutes.

The day began with the screening of a documentary in which Fr Carlos Noyen OCD and three lay people gave testimony on how to live the Teresian spirituality in everyday life in such a "busy" world.

Afterwards, Fr Carlos Noyen gave a conference based on "Nada te Turbe" [Let nothing disturb you], the famous poem of Mother Teresa. He shared new ideas on ways to understand it in the context of what Saint Teresa of Jesus experienced in her life.

The meeting culminated with Mass at which the Provincial, Fr Roeland Van Meerssche OCD, presided with 12 priests concelebrating, the majority of whom were Carmelites.

Thirty-seven nuns from the Flemish Federation of Carmelite nuns joined in the celebration, together with more than one hundred Secular Members, without counting those who habitually frequent our friars' church. The nuns and the priests entered in procession, preceded by the banner of the shield of the Order.