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V Centenary

The cultural events for the 5th Centenary began in Spain with a gala concert in Avila

Avila-Spain, January 17, 2015 (Communicationes).- The cultural events, organized by the National Commission for the 5th centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus, began with a gala concert in Avila.

The Castile and Leon Symphonic Orchestra performed Elgar’s Cello Concerto in E minor, Opus 85 and Brahms’ First Symphony, Opus 68 in C minor.

Attending the concert was the Vice-President of the Spanish government, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, as well as other officials of the Spanish government, the Autonomous Community and the city of Avila. Also present were representative of the 17 Teresian cities.

Before the concert, the Vice-President of the Spanish government visited the “La Santa” community of the Discalced Carmelite Friars in Avila, where the Prior, Fr David Jiménez and the Order’s Vicar General, Fr Emilio José Martínez, showed her the chapel built in the house of Saint Teresa of Jesus, which has recently been restored for the 5th Centenary.

Camino de Luz

The “Camino de Luz” is already in Africa

Kenya, January 17, 2015 (Communicationes).- After a short pause in Madrid, the “Camino de Luz” team continued the world pilgrimage with the relic of St Teresa’s walking staff. After finishing the first stage of the pilgrimage, Fr. Antonio

Gonzalez no longer accompanies the team, having resumed his work as Secretary General of the centennial.

Fr Antonio González commented that, “Many people and communities come to mind, and will continue to return. I will miss Amaya, Pablo and Cristina, a formidable team, like a family, after so many ups and downs we went through together in these weeks.”

The second stage of the pilgrimage began in Africa. In fact, the “Camino de Luz” team has reached Kenya. Jérôme Paluku and later on Fr Julio Almansa will travel with the “Camino de Luz” team through Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso.

Chronicles from the General Archives

Saint Teresa’s friars in Spain

Rome-Italy, January 17, 2015 (Communicaciones).- Fr Óscar I. Aparicio, OCD Archivist

General. A few months ago the Burgos Monte Carmelo publishing house printed the book: *Los Hijos de Santa Teresa en España* [St Teresa’s Sons in Spain]. It is a brief historical guide to all the Discalced Carmelite friars’ foundations, past and present, made in Spain. The author is “yours truly” who is writing this brief chronicle.

From the beginning in 1568, the total of places where the Discalced Carmelite friars settled is 180: cities, villages and towns. The number of monasteries is 193, since there are cities where there were more than one, or who changed place after the Restoration. At present there are 192 monasteries in Spain and one in Rome – the hospice-monastery where the Procurator lives with two or three other friars.

From the civil provinces, the one which has had the most foundations throughout our history is Jaén, with 11 foundations. At present, the only one remaining open is Úbeda, the place where St John of the Cross died. The second civil province in number of monasteries, also in Andalusia, is Córdoba with ten. Also in Andalusia is the Málaga civil province with eight. The first province outside Andalusia with eight foundations was Barcelona. Following on with seven foundations were the Castilian provinces of Madrid, Toledo and Cuenca. Also enjoying seven foundations was the Cadiz province in Andalusia. Almost all of the present provinces in which the country is divided have some Discalced Carmelite friars’ monasteries. The only civil provinces never to have had a monastery are the Galician provinces of Lugo, Orense and Pontevedra. The civil province of Alicante has never had a foundation of Discalced Carmelite friars as also the Andalusian province of Almería. In all, there are only five civil provinces which have never given hospitality to the friars founded by Saint Teresa.

It never ceases to be curious, that the most important monasteries for the Reform, such as Pastrana (Guadalajara) were never recovered by the Order. The same can be said of San Hermenegildo in Madrid; the parish of Saint Joseph in the High Street of central Madrid; or las Ramblas, now the market in la Boquería, which bears the name of Saint Joseph; or Paseo de Gracia in Barcelona. Zaragoza and Valencia also changed sites to outside the city, but the city has spread so that they are now in the very centre.

A strange thing to reflect upon is that two bull rings owe their origin to places that once belonged to the Discalced Carmelite Order: the one in Medina de Ríoseco and the old one in Vélez-Málaga.

Argentina

New Web project in the General Delegation of Argentina

Avila-Spain, January 17, 2015 (Communicationes).- Fr. Pablo Ureta ocd. The General Delegation of Argentina has begun a Web page www.ocdargentina.com.ar which contains many novelties.

Taking advantage of the new tools which facilitate better communication, we want to use them to share what is happening in the General Delegation of Argentina and the Order, with familiarity and confidence.

There are novelties with regards to the way of sharing news of what is happening to us. A new section deals with the 5th centenary in Argentina and there is the possibility of downloading Carmelite material.

Besides the Web page, we also have a site on Facebook, to which is sent various news and material of interest, in the style that is appropriate for this site.

We hope that this space, perfected thanks to the "effort and expertise" of some of the friars in the formative community, will serve to make known our way of life and what is happening to us.