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Chronicles from the General Archives

Carmelites in Egypt

June 10, 2015 (Communicationes).- Fr Óscar I. Aparicio. News of the arrival of the Discalced Carmelite friars in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and to be more specific in the suburb of Choubrah, was related in the local press on 16th February 1926. The inauguration of the new monastery took place on 30th October 1926 and the Canonical Establishment on 23rd November 1926. The importance of this new monastery lies in its being the first Carmelite foundation in African lands in the 20th century, after the first made towards the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century in the old Kingdom of Congo.

The description of the new house and the solemn inauguration can be found in the *Burgos Revista Monte Carmelo* (1927) pp. 70-72. We are told that the house is in "Chombra of Cairo", in the new part of the city. A roomy and beautiful chapel was built, 16 cells for the friars, and an entrance hall, dining room and other sections. On the 1st November, public worship began in the chapel which was dedicated to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. The chronicles tell us that there were thirty members of the Carmelite Secular Order in Cairo. Fr Edmund was to be Superior of the new residence. The Carmelites devoted themselves to the spiritual care of the many thousands of European Catholics who lived in the areas surrounding the new Carmelite dwelling.

The new church dedicated to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, which is still in use today, was inaugurated on 3rd October 1932 and was consecrated by the Apostolic Delegate of the Nile Delta, Mons. Girard, and according to the records more than 10,000 people were present. Worthy of mention, among those present were the Consular Delegations of Italy, Britain,

Belgium and France. A curious fact was that the music was conducted by the English military and included popular songs.

In 1986 was inaugurated the Saint Therese Clinic, which to the present day continues offering invaluable aid to the nearby population. An interesting fact, with which we want to finish this chronicle, is that in the archives we have a letter from the Apostolic Nuncio of Cairo, Monsignor Paolo Giglio, dated 14th February 2002, in which he tells us that during the visit of John Paul II to Cairo from 24th to 26th February 2000, the Holy Father drank juice made from grapefruit from the friars' tiny garden.

V Centenary

Ballet in homage to Saint Teresa

Costa Rica, June 10, 2015 (Communications).- For the 500 years of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus, the Magnificat Ballet of Costa Rica presented their work "My Interior Castle" on the 30th and 31st of May.

It is a work in which ballet is united with modern dance and jazz to carry to the public the story of the "Soul", the protagonist who lives outside the Castle, but then takes the most important step in her life, which is to enter this castle, without knowing that this decision will change her life for ever, and she will be transformed into a totally new person, happy and free.

The work, inspired by St Teresa's *Interior Castle*, shows how along the way she will learn many truths, will have to fight, will go through different tests to get rid of her selfish whims and thus achieve delivering her will to her Lord.

At the end the "Soul" experiences a life that is fuller and freer, she has more to give to others, to those closest and most in need of consolation; and at the same time, in giving to others, she can live in joy, peace and confidence.

This work was prepared in conjunction with the Discalced Carmelite friars of the Fatima church in Los Yoses, San José, Costa Rica.

V Centenary

The V Centenary in the Philippines

Philippines, June 10, 2015 (Communications).- Greeting from Carmel on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. It was here that the Spanish missionaries brought the faith for the first time, in 1521. This was the time when Teresa, as a child, tried to become a martyr. Little did she know that some 500 years later there would be daughters of hers in 22 Carmels and sons in a Carmelite Province newly created in the Philippines.

The 5th centenary of the birth of our Holy Mother is being celebrated to the fullest by the friars, nuns and lay Carmelites. We have worked to make Saint Teresa known in each parish and the schools of the Archdiocese through visits to each one of them.

Our Archbishop, Mons José S. Palma, fervently supported these visits, and the small group presenting our Holy Mother was very well received everywhere. They carried with them a relic and a statue of the Holy Mother and spoke about her life, her virtues and her relevance in our life today.

The first parish visited was very interesting. It was the Parish of Saint Teresa in Talisay City. Its first parish priest was Fr Juan Soriano, an Augustinian friar, a native of Avila in Spain! The statue of our Holy Mother venerated there is the first statue of Saint Teresa hand-carved in the Philippines.

Austria

Exhibition in Austria in memory of all the religious, victims of Naziism

Linz-Austria, June 10, 2015 (Communications).- To celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life and the 70th anniversary after the finish of the Second World Ward and the liberation of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria, the Carmelites of the Austrian province organized an exhibition in memory of all the religious, victims of Naziism in Austria.

Special space was given to Fr Paulus Wörndl of Linz, who was arrested and beheaded in 1944 and to our Father Jacques of Jesus OCD (Avon, Paris), who died some days in Linz, after the liberation of Mauthausen-Gusen.

The exhibition has more than 30 descriptive panels, showing how all the religious in the concentratrion camps gave witness to their faith.

The exhibition will be on view in the crypt of the church of the Discalced Carmelite friars in Linz until the end of July, after which it will be taken to Vienna and Innsbruck.