



“Nova et vetera” Sanjuanist Gregorian chant

On the 450th anniversary of the reformation of the male branch of the Teresian Carmel (1568-2018), young Discalced Carmelites – postulants and religious of the two Polish provinces of the Order (Krakow and Warsaw) – met in Czerna to prepare a disc with the Mass and Vespers of Saint John of the Cross as well as other hymns and antiphons about the Saint. The album will be ready next fall.

From an artistic point of view, the responsibility to carry out the initiative was taken on by specialists Ewa and Robert Domagała Rekiel, di-

rected by Father Mariusz Wójtowicz ocd, already known for his previous work (the disc, “Sancta Mater Teresia”: <https://soundcloud.com/dumanie/sancta-mater-teresia-chora-y>; polyphonic chants “Solo Dios basta” (“God alone suffices”): <https://soundcloud.com/dumanie/bog-sam-wystarcza-vol-1> or “Twoje Niebo” <https://soundcloud.com/dumanie/twoje-niebo-dzien-po-dniu>).

We invite you to visit the Web page of the Krakow province, where all the recordings are available: www.karmel.pl.

Seventy years of the foundation of the Holy Desert of Roquebrune (France)

On Pentecost Monday (May 21, 2018), the brothers of the Province of Avignon-Aquitaine celebrated the 70th anniversary of the foundation of their Holy Desert. The project was discussed

during the General Chapter of 1947, and Blessed Father Marie-Eugene of the Infant Jesus was charged with carrying out this foundation, which also occurred on a Pentecost Monday, at that time (1948), May

17th. This is the date of the annual pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Mercy, venerated since the 17th century in the shrine of the new Desert. For approximately 50 years, the Holy Desert of Roquebrune (in the department of Var in Provence) was attended by the four Franco-Belgian provinces: Avignon-Aquitaine, Paris, Flanders, and Brabant.

From 1996, the house became exclusively dependent on the Province of Avignon-Aquitaine. There are seven hermitages on site built by Camaldolese monks around 1925 and a large, Provençal-style building (originally a stronghold) from the beginning of the 19th century. It also includes an ancient Marian shrine

rebuilt in the 17th century. The property, encompassing more than 60 hectares (two hills), is located in the isolated Massif des Maures. It offers a beautiful view of the Mediterranean and the Bay of Saint-Raphaël. On Pentecost Monday, the hermits organized a meeting to commemorate the event, which coincided with the celebration of the first liturgical feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, now, precisely, celebrated on the day after Pentecost. A beautiful and providential event, highly symbolic and pertinent to Carmelite spirituality. Father Henri of the Infant Jesus, Provincial of Avignon-Aquitaine, presided over the ceremony this year, in which he celebrates his Silver Jubilee of religious profession.



New Document

2018 Letter from Fr. General to the Discalced Carmelites Nuns on the implementing instruction Cor Orans

Beatification of Maria Felicia of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

The 23rd of June was a great day for Paraguay and Carmel. At last arrived the hoped-for day and the stadium of the Cerro Porteño Club was packed with worshipers who began to arrive from midday to applaud their blessed Maria Felicia of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (Chiquitunga).

The ceremony began punctually at 4.30 in the afternoon and presiding was Cardinal Angelo Amato, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. Concelebrating with him were all the Bishops of the Episcopal Conference and some 200 priests. The ceremony was solemn, lively and cheerful, with a mixture of hymns that were classic and catchy Paraguayan folkloric. It was moving to see an assembly of 50,000 people (we also know that thousands were unable to get into the stadium) who joined in each moment of the ceremony with their applause.

Some 60 Discalced Carmelite nuns were present as well as around 40 friars from Paraguay and neighboring countries. On the next day, there were thanksgiving Masses in various places for the beatification of this Carmelite whom, from yesterday, the people acclaimed as a saint.

In his homily, Cardinal Angelo Amato presented the new blessed (fondly known as Chiquitunga) as “an educated young woman, holy and enthusiastic about her faith and her vocation to the consecrated life”; a saint who, “today invites her sisters to feel proud of their vocation and happy in their daily commitment to the Lord”; a saint who “invites us all to live truly our Christian existence and inspire the Paraguayan youth to remain faithful in loving Jesus”. Paraguay, Carmel and Heaven itself are filled, then, with rejoicing. May we all join in this happiness.

The Lord brought us to youthfulness

Our OCD Mission Regional Vicariate of West Bengal & North East India has completed 20 years on 6th June 2018. With the permission of our General Superiors, the North East Indian Mission started in Kolkata (where lived St. Teresa of Calcutta) on 6th June 1998 through the efforts of Fr. Wilfred Miranda, OCD, as Major Superior of South Kerala Commissariate; the first seminary at Burdwan was opened by Fr. Bernardine M. Louis, OCD as Provincial in 2003 and it became a Regional Vicariate on 2nd September 2008.

Now we have 10 presences including 3 seminaries in this mission region: PUSHPIKALAYA, Kolkata (1998), Stella Maris Ashram, Dhupguri(2001). Flos Carmeli Ashram, Burdwan(2003), Lum Karmel Monastery, Shillong (2006), San Juan Monastery, Kumari(2009), St. Teresa's Monastery, Koilamati (2009), St. Joseph's Monastery, Khetri (2013), Mount Carmel Monastery, Khawla-lung(2013), Bl. Marie Eugene Seminary, Dhupguri(2016) and Carmel Hill Monastery, Rengdim (2017). We thank all our General and Provincial Superiors especially Fr. Jaison Kaimathuruthil, OCD, Fr. Marcel

Fernandez, OCD who had been the Mission Superior for many years and all the friars who have been working for its growth. Our Regional House is at Dhupguri in West Bengal, c. 700 kms north of Kolkata. Now we are 23 Priests in this Vicariate, 18 theology students, 2 Regents, 7 Philosophy Students, 6 Novices and 5 Postulants and many aspirants. We are running 5 Mission Parishes, 5 Schools, 6 boys' and girls' Homes and tailoring centre. God will accomplish His plans in the due time.

On 6th June 2018 Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta Archdiocese came to our First Monastery PUSHPIKALAYA, Kolkata and offered a THANKSGIVING MASS at 5.00 p.m to mark 20 years of our growth as a Mission Vicariate along with our Friars in the Mission, Rev. Sisters of different Congregations and our neighbours and wellwishers. Very Rev. Fr. Johannes Gorantla, OCD the Definitor and General Visitator has recorded in the Visitation Report of October 2017, "The North East Mission started in 1998 has grown so fast.. In the coming 5 years there will be another 20 priests from the mission and for the mission. This is a great achievement of

the Province of South Kerala. They have joyfully worked and still working for the growth and expansion of the Order in the North East. They all need a special appreciation for this missionary commitment”. Again, “Majority of members (of the Province) have the missionary experience in the North East ..In my opinion, this missionary spirit is a great asset to the Province”(p.7). “ Our Holy Mother St. Teresa wrote in the Book

of Foundations on what we have to do in the years to come, “ We must have the holy audacity to aspire with God’s help to be like them (Carmelite saints). The struggle will not last long, but the outcome will be eternal”. May our Mother of Carmel protect us under her mantle and the saints of Carmel accompany us in our onward journey to be aflame with their spirit.

Fr General, visiting Dutch Carmel

Towards the end of June, Fr Saverio Cannistrà, ocd, Superior General, visited our Carmelite brothers and sisters in Holland, accompanied by his secretary, Fr Rafal Willkowski. He was able to meet all the friars of the Semiprovince and to visit, among others, the nuns’ monasteries of Echt, Maastricht and Oirschot, fraternally sharing the life of the friars and the nuns in this area of

jurisdiction of the Order, who are suffering the difficulties arising from the lack of vocations and the passing of years, with the consequent ageing. In Echt, he was also able to visit the parish where there are preserved objects tied to Sr Teresa Benedicta of the Cross who, as it is known, was taken from here, together with her sister Rosa, to the Westerbork camp and then to Auschwitz, where they suffered martyrdom.

The East Timor mission has been temporarily closed

On the 10th of December 2016, the Iberian Conference of Provincials, made up of the Provinces of Portugal, Navarre and Iberia, began a mission in East Timor. Despite all the efforts made, for the

moment it has not been possible to consolidate a solid presence which would assure the implanting of the Order in this territory. As a result of a petition from this same Conference, the General Definitory sent a letter recently on

the 11th of June to the Provincials of the three Circumscriptions, thanking them for the work carried out by the missionaries who had remained there all this time, and accepting the proposal of temporarily suspending the mission.

God willing, in the future, as the

General Definitory expressed, a presence of the Teresian Carmel can be re-established in East Timor, which fulfils the requirements for a renewed presence that would be oriented towards the reception of vocations and training them”.

Meeting of the Discalced Carmelite novices of Italy

Between the 11th and the 15th of June past, a meeting of novices and their Masters from the Italian Provinces, took place in the Teresianum. Taking part were Fathers Marco Cabula (Liguria), Leonardo Cuccurullo (Naples), Gianni Bracchi (Venice) and Attilio Viganò (Lombardy), accompanied by the novices: Giuseppe Ginefra, Andrea Palmentura, Michele Piperis, Francesco Cotta, Francesco de March, Francesco Alloisio, Alessandro Futia and Arthur Randriamampionona.

During the meeting, Masters and novices were able to share fraternally how they were living

in the various novice houses, as well as twice setting aside time for matters relating more to formation: once on Carmelite matters (the Rule, the prophet Elijah and the tradition of Carmel) and the other with religious-cultural content at a theoretical and practical level, by visiting places in Rome connected with the history of the primitive Church or the Teresian Carmel. For this second task they counted on the help of Professor Gianfrancesco Solferino.

The young novices were able to share also among themselves and with their Masters their hopes and their preoccupations with regard to the Teresian Carmel of the future.

Cardinal Braz de Aviz visits the Discalced Carmelites of Bologna

On June 10th, our sisters in Bologna received a fraternal visit from the Cardinal Prefect of the CIVCSVA, João Cardinal Bráz de Aviz, who was traveling to nearby Pontecchio Marconi to participate in a day of the General Chapter of Father Kolbe's Missionaries of the Immaculata.

During his brief visit, Cardinal Bráz de Aviz prayed with the sisters and had a spontaneous dialogue with them, covering topics specific to the

nuns' life, their simple and joyful witness, and the spirit of communion amongst themselves and with the Church that they convey, which he bid them to continue cultivating.

Likewise, our sisters shared some initial impressions about the Cor Orans instructions for the Contemplative Life of Women.

A more detailed account of the visit can be found on the Italian version of the Web page in that language.

