

# Communicationes N. 305

22/09/2015

## CONTENTS:

- Setting the foundations for rereading the Constitutions. First meeting of the international committee.

- First steps of the new province of the Philippines

- "Prayer, a force that changes the world", theme of the congress of the Vatican Foundation Joseph Ratzinger–Benedict XVI

## Constitutions

### Setting the foundations for rereading the Constitutions. First meeting of the international committee.

**Rome-Italy, September 22 (Communicationes).**- As requested by the General Chapter recently held in Ávila, the international committee for the rereading of the Constitutions of the Discalced Carmelites met from September 13 to 20 in the General House (Rome). Those present were:

1. Father Agustí Borrell – Vicar General, *president*
2. Father Daniel Chowning – Definitor General
3. Father Alzinir Debastiani – Secretary General for the Order of Discalced Carmelites Secular
4. Father Aloysius Deeney
5. Father Emilio Martínez
6. Father Gabriel Castro
7. Father Giuseppe Pozzobon
8. Father Gregorio Firszt
9. Father Joe Tauro

After the election of the secretary (Father Emilio Martínez), the committee focused on the objectives set out by the General Chapter: to begin the process of rereading the Constitutions with the goal of reviewing the life of our communities in light of the current reality of the world and the Church.

Based on the chapter document “Es tiempo de caminar” (“it is time to be underway”), the committee has created a task calendar for the upcoming years following Chapter and Definitory proposals. It will begin with personal and community reading of the Chapter document according to instructive guidelines that have been developed.

Following this and beginning in January 2016, religious in particular and communities in general will begin rereading the Constitutions and the commentaries with the help of some worksheets that the committee will issue over the following weeks.

## Philippines

### First steps of the new province of the Philippines

**Philippines, September 22 (Communicationes).**- It was a moment of special grace! May 23, 2015, will be recorded forever in Carmelite history: It was the day on which the General Chapter in Ávila created a Province of the long-standing Commissariat of the Philippines with the title Saint Teresa of Jesus. We will celebrate the creation of the Province on October 15, 2015, the date we are celebrating the closing of the 5th Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

The archbishop of Cáceres and former Commissary, Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona, ocd, will preside over the celebration. The Eucharistic celebration will take place in the parish of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in New Manila, Quezon City.

Another blessing we are all grateful for is the Philippine Episcopal Conference’s recognition of our church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as a National Shrine.

The celebration on October 15 will be attended by all the Carmelites of the Philippines and Vietnam, together with some from other Provinces, such as Father Michael McGoldrick, Provincial of the Aglo-Irish Province; Father Cyril Guise, delegate of Father Jude Peters, Provincial; a representative of the Washington Province; and Father Paul Kunori, Delegate General of Japan. There will certainly be other friars from Oceania and Eastern Asia attending this great moment of thanksgiving.

Also participating will be the O.Carm. Provincial of the Philippines, Father Christian Buenafe; priests and religious from different congregations; the OCDS; the Council of our nuns’ association; other members of the Carmelite family; parishioners; and benefactors.

As we await that day, we also joyfully await the message from our Father General, Saverio Cannistrà, which he will address to the new Province of the Philippines before the final blessing during the Eucharistic celebration.

## Congress

### "Prayer, a force that changes the world," theme of the congress of the Vatican Foundation Joseph Ratzinger–Benedict XVI

**Madrid-Spain, September 22 (Communicationes).**- The Vatican Foundation Joseph Ratzinger–Benedict XVI will celebrate its international congress in Spain for the first time. It will take place in Madrid, in the Francisco de Vitoria University, on October 28 and 29. Its title is "Prayer, a force that changes the world." It is organized by the Holy See Foundation, the aforementioned University, and the Foundation for the 5th Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. Registration is free.

The topic chosen, prayer as a force that transforms the world, is intimately linked to Teresian spirituality and is very present in the thought and teaching of Joseph Ratzinger–Benedict XVI.

Among others, participants will include: Archbishop Luis F. Ladaria, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Father Agustí Borrell, Vicar General of the Discalced Carmelite Order; the dean of the School of Theology and Canon Law of the Pontifical University of Comillas, Jesuit Father Gabino Uribarri; as well as professors from various universities, Spanish as well as international.

The opening session on October 28 will be attended by representatives from the Vatican Foundation, such as the President, Monsignor Giuseppe Scotti; His Holiness's Nuncio to Spain, Archbishop Renzo Fratini; the Archbishop of Valladolid and President of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, Cardinal Ricardo Blázquez; the Archbishop of Madrid, Carlos Osoro, who will deliver the keynote speech and will preside over the Scientific Committee of the Congress; and the rector of the Francisco de Vitoria University (UFV), Daniel Sada. The Organizing Committee is headed by UFV professor Isidro Catela Marcos, currently Director-Manager of the Foundation for the 5th Centenary.

Confirmed roundtables include how prayer transforms the person, family, university, youths' hearts and social commitment, or the Church itself. It is customary in these Congresses that Pope Francis as well as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI send a message to participants.

Information on the congress can be followed on [www.ufv.es/ratzinger2015](http://www.ufv.es/ratzinger2015); [www.fondatzioneratzinger.va](http://www.fondatzioneratzinger.va); and [www.stj500.com](http://www.stj500.com)