



OCD

COMMUNICATIONES

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DISCALCED CARMELITES
GENERAL CURIA OF THE TERESIAN CARMEL

BEATIFICATION OF ANNE OF JESUS

With immense joy we share with you the official announcement that Pope Francis will preside at the ceremony of beatification of Venerable Anne of Jesus in the Arch-diocese of Malines-Brussels on Sunday 29 September 2024.

Anne of Jesus is one of the corner stones of the entire successful history of the Teresian Reform. She was born on 25 November 1545 in Medina del Campo (Spain) and died on 4 March 1621 in Brussels (Belgium). Her 76 years of life are among the outstanding factors in the initial establishment and the later transmission of the Teresian charism to succeeding generations. The first period of her life is marked by the fact that she shared intimately in the final 12 years of St. Teresa's life. Those years were decisive in establishing the spirit and identity of the Order. The later years of her life were characterized by some courageous decisions on her part and by a flourishing expansion of the Teresian Reform in France and Flanders.



ISRAEL: VISIT OF CARDINAL PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA

From 11 to 16 June 2024, His Eminence Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, engaged in a Pastoral Visitation of Haifa, meeting with the ecclesial and religious communities there. In particular, he visited the Latin Parish of St. Joseph which is under the care of Carmelites of the Lebanese Province and Carmel School where around 700 boys and girls are taught. The Cardinal also met and prayed with the various Religious Orders in Haifa, including our Carmelite Nuns and the Friars of Stella Maris Monastery. On Friday 14 June, the Feast of St. Elijah, the Cardinal presided at the morning Mass in the Grotto of St. Elijah. On 16 June, the annual procession in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel took place. Cardinal Pizzaballa led the procession and was joined by a large crowd coming from all the surrounding region and by numerous Bishops and Priests.

It is interesting that the origin of this procession dates back to the end of the First World War in 1918. Earlier in that conflict the Ottoman authorities ordered the Carmel-

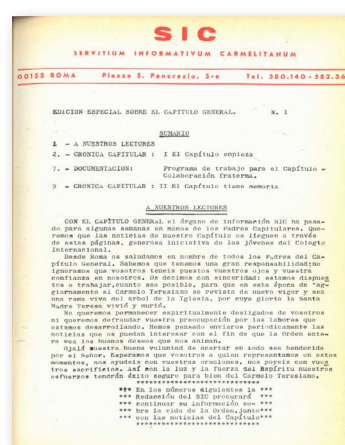
ite Fathers to evacuate the Stella Maris Monastery within three hours, as it was to be taken over by the Ottoman army. The faithful inhabitants of Haifa then asked the Superior of Stella Maris if they could bring the Monastery's statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel to their Parish of St. Joseph, so that Our Blessed Lady would protect them from the incessant bombardments of the French and British ships in the Bay of Haifa. At the conclusion of the War, the population of Haifa returned the statue of the Madonna to Stella Maris in a first procession, accompanied with hymns of thanksgiving.



DIGICARMEL: DIGITALIZATION OF OCD INFORMATION BULLETINS 1968-2024

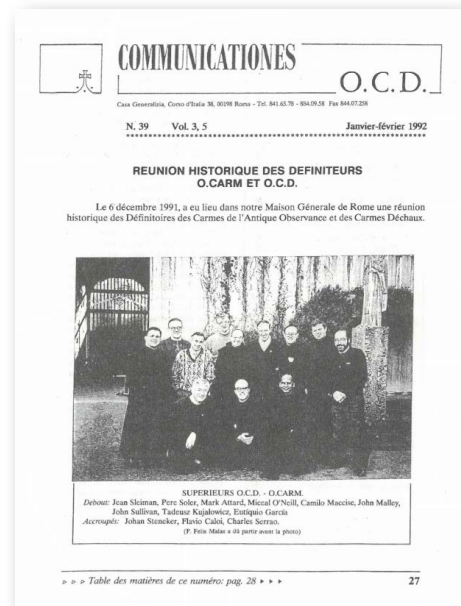
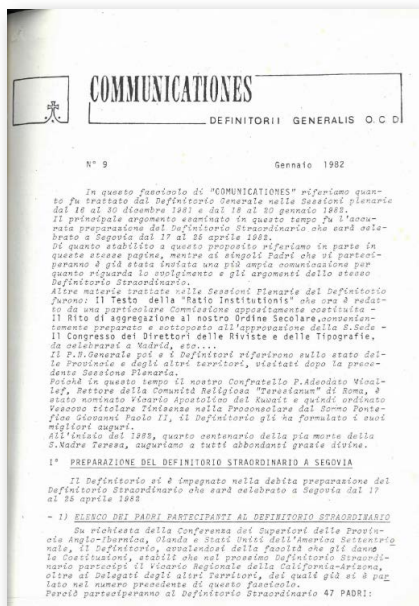
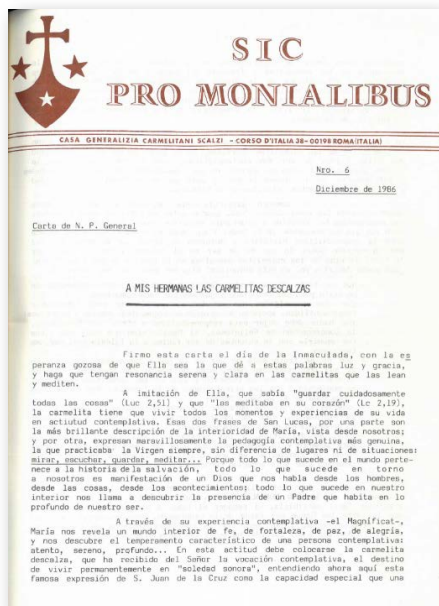
The digitalization and online publication of the Order's official bulletins has finally been completed. This is the result of a prolonged process of collecting and cataloguing of all the informative material produced in nearly 60 years.

It all began with an informal initiative of students at the International College in Rome on the occasion of the General Chapter (2nd session) in 1968. The first bulletin was called "S.I.C. – *Servitium Informativum Carmelitarum*". It became official very quickly, introducing a varied series of publications in different languages and formats: *S.I.C.* (1968-2002); *Communicationes Definitorii Generalis OCD* (1979-1992); *S.I.C. Missionum* (1982-1994); *S.I.C. Pro Monialibus* (1984-1991); *Communicationes OCD* (from 1993 to the present day; from 2003 being issued from the General Curia in an exclusively digital format.



In the “*Bibliotheca Carmelitana Digitalis*” section of the www.digicarmel.com search engine, we can now offer an inexhaustible mine of information on the recent life of the Order (names, persons, places, events, news items and

activities of all sorts). These can be consulted on PDF and they complete the double collection of the Official Acts of the Order: *Analecta OCD* (1926-1953) and *Acta OCD* (from 1955 to the present day).



ITALY: 350th ANNIVERSARY OF PIACENZA MONASTERY



On the 24th May, with the launch of a book recounting our history, we brought to a close our year of celebration of the 350th anniversary of our presence in Piacenza. We had begun more than a year-long of thanksgiving festivities on 19 March 2023, with Fr. Miguel Marquez Calle, OCD General, presiding at a solemn Eucharistic celebration. In his homily that day, Fr. Miguel had told us: “An adventure, yours, that today celebrates 350 years, a story of the lives of so many people, (your sisters), who were in love... Permit this dream of God to continue, because Jesus is still incarnate today, continue to believe, with absolute fidelity, that nothing is impossible for God”.

We refer below to some of the other memorable events that took place throughout this special anniversary year.

On 4 July 2023, our Mother, Sr. M. Francesca in the company of three others sisters from our community, were received in the Basilica of St. Antonino by His Lordship, Bishop Adriano Covelotto. To mark the memorable occasion and the extraordinary 350th anniversary of the Carmelite presence in their city of Piacenza, Bishop Adri-

ano presented them with the prestigious “golden Antonino Award” in recognition and appreciation of the Carmelite Community. Later in the year, in October, the Community hosted special conferences with Fr. Saverio Cannestra OCD and Sig. Matthew Corradini, (writer and Hebrew scholar) on the theme “Teresian Spirituality and Hebrew Mysticism”. Fr. Saverio lectured on “Prophetism in the Mysticism of St. Teresa”.

On 17 March 2024, as an “official” closure of the centenary, Bishop Adriano presided at a solemn Eucharistic celebration while on 21 April, we had an added “gift” of a musical recital of “Vuestra soy” performed by some special friends!

And now, loving souls, let us recommence...



AUSTRIA: VISIT TO THE OCDS COMMUNITIES

The four OCDS communities in Austria located in, Graz, Jeutendorf, Linz and Vienna received the visit of the Provincial of Discalced Carmelites in Austria, Fr. Paul Saji, OCD and the General Delegate for the OCDS, Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD. Each community participated actively in the meetings presenting themselves, their pro-



jects and challenges, and renewed their commitment to continue to collaborate building up the Secular Order in Austria. All members are particularly grateful for their spiritual assistants who accompany them regularly and help them with great generosity. There were moments to pray together and to recreate. The OCDS in Austria have a close relationship with the Carmelite Friars and Nuns and are ready to participate in common projects to promote Carmelite spirituality in their country.

VIET NAM: NEWS FROM THE CARMELITE NUNS



The Federation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel held their General Assembly from the 5th - 11th May 2024, at the Bishop's Residence at Xuan Loc under the presidency of Father Francis Nguyễn Quách Tiến OCD, the Religious Assistant of the Federation. The Bishop's residence consists of a seminary and many buildings catered for big groups. The 5th May, the new President and Councilors were elected. We keep them in our prayers as they begin this new triennium.

From the 13th - 19th May, the Nuns from the 11 Carmels of the Federation had a Formation course. When all 83 sisters were assembled, the course began: one sessions in the morning and another in the afternoon with Questions and Answers. The topic of Fr. Rafal's course was a continuation on 'The Identity of St. Teresa's Carmelite Spirituality'. It covered many areas of our lives as Carmelite Nuns. It was lovely to see the joy radiating from the sisters. They were free to ask questions and thanked to Fr. Francis for translating from English to Vietnamese. It was indeed a wonderful week of learning and sharing.



INDIA: PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL INTEGRATION COURSE FOR CLOISTERED NUNS



A Psycho-Spiritual course was organised by the Federation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Sadbhavana, Carmelite Provincialate of Karnataka Goa Province, Bengaluru, from 3-22 June 2024. Sixteen Nuns from nine Carmels and from the Raipur Carmel took part in it. As they testified, it became an experience of coming to a deserted place to answer perennial question posed by the Beloved, “Where are you Adam?”, to reflect on the vulnerabilities and the various defense mechanisms used to hide one’s nakedness before the One, “we know loves us”. The Nuns examined some of the key concepts, at times

distorted, and paradigms, which motivate the living-out of the charism in community, learning to handle anger and conflict. There were scientific therapeutic sessions of handling childhood trauma and negative memories through Brain Equilibrium Therapy. The renewed understanding of the essentials underpinning the Carmelite prayer journey, the practice of spiritual direction, personal reflection and group discussions coupled with the lavish love and care of the friars challenged and motivated the participants to return to their communities with courage and fervour to be the “Salt and Light”. The sessions helped to renew the lives of the Nuns.



MEETING OF OCDS COMMUNITIES IN INDONESIA



The family of the OCDS in Indonesia counts already with fifteen communities present on seven different islands. Its members are committed to their life of prayer, fraternity and service in the Church and in the World. Several communities gathered together to talk about important aspects of their OCDS vocation and to share how they are trying to incarnate and share the

Carmelite charism in their own towns and cities. By their testimony they continue to attract many people, not only to become OCDS, but to grow in their relationship with God. They participate in the Eucharist, pray the liturgy of the hours, practice mental prayer and Lectio Divina, and organize spiritual events. The meeting was fruitful and balanced; there was time for prayer, learning, discussions, and recreation.





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