



OCD

COMMUNICATIONES



DISCALCED CARMELITES
GENERAL CURIA OF THE TERESIAN CARMEL

Official statement: Facial reconstruction of Saint Teresa of Jesus

28th March 2025

510th anniversary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus

On 28 August 2024, in Alba de Tormes (Spain), the long process of identification and study of the mortal remains of Saint Teresa of Jesus began. It will culminate with the public exhibition from 11 to 25 May and the subsequent closure of the tomb.

On this occasion, numerous and meticulous examinations were conducted under the responsibility of Professors Luigi Capasso, Ruggero D'Anastasio and Dr. Jacopo Cilli of the 'Gabriele d'Annunzio' University of Chieti-Pescara (Italy). On the basis of the information gathered, the Generalate of the Discalced Carmelites decided to proceed with the scientific reconstruction of the face of Saint Teresa of Avila, using the most modern techniques. This facial reconstruction (also known as 'approximation') was carried out by Professor Jennifer Mann of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (Monash University, Victoria, Australia): it combined the forensic methodologies currently used in the United States and the United Kingdom and was based on the anthropometric data and X-rays provided by the University of Chieti. The photographs are by Jennifer Mann and the videos by Paul Burston.

The artists authorize the publication and printing of these images with the following credits: for the photographs 'Sculpture and photos by Jennifer Mann' and for the videos 'Sculpture by Jennifer Mann/Videos by Paul Burston', all rights retained. Soon, copies of the bust of Saint Theresa will be available in the original dimensions, in bronze or resin. To order, please contact the Postulation General OCD.

P. Marco Chiesa
Postulator General OCD



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Siria: Message from the Carmelite Nuns of Aleppo

11th March 2025

Dear friends,
Many of you have asked for an update on the situation here, and we are very touched. The massacres that have taken place and continue to take place on the north-west coast of Syria, in the Alawite region where the former President's family comes from, have absolutely no description. It is an outright crime against humanity, a genocide in the true sense of the word. How are the simple, very poor Alawite people responsible for the decades of Assad family rule? Shock, anger and fear are everywhere in the Latakia region and throughout the country. Where are we headed? Will no one defend these poor people who have no money, no power and no way of defending themselves? We implore you to pray and, insofar as you are able, to take action to stop this massacre, which is unworthy of humanity!

This morning we spoke to Sr Rima, Superior of the Apostolic Carmelites of St Joseph, in Latakia. She was crying on the phone. They have a hostel for students, most of whom are Alawites. The poor girls have gone mad with grief at the news of the massacre of their parents, brothers and sisters, friends, etc. In addition to everything is happening, the city of Latakia has been without electricity and water for five days. Here, too, deprivation is increasing.

This tragedy has provoked reactions and demonstrations in the country itself, but unfortunately these have very quickly degenerated into violence... And the government is not reacting. How much responsibility has the government for this tragedy?

In the Church, patriarchs and bishops have reacted in the strongest possible terms, calling on the government to stop the massacre and to really work towards the good and reconstruction of the whole country. Our Latin bishop, Mgr Jallouf, was particularly firm in his response. He knew the 'Jehbat el nosra' in Idlib well...

And the different factions in the country (Druze, Kurds, Shiites, etc...) are also demonstrating, often in defence of the Alawites...

As with all disasters and revolutions, the country nevertheless witnessed some beautiful and heroic deeds. Among other examples, Sunni and Shia families have welcomed and protected Alawites.

Let us pray that the violence will stop and that the government will assume its responsibilities to work towards reconciliation, peace and the well-being of the country. And pray that the Christians, who are very upset, will remain confident and not leave their country... Thank you for your prayers and affection.... And a happy and holy Lent. Our Saviour Jesus is and always will be victorious through his offering and loving death on the Cross.





Mexico: Fraternal visit to the OCDS and the Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In February, Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD, General Delegate for the OCDS, accompanied by the Provincial Delegate for the OCDS, Fr. Pedro Martínez Nogales, OCD, made a fraternal visitation to the communities of the Secular Order and the Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The visitation was organised by region, where people from all over Mexico met to discuss important themes relating to the Carmelite charism. These meetings took place in the cities of Celaya, Mexico, Guadalajara, Puebla and San Luis Potosí. Frs Cándido Celestino, OCD, and German Melgarejo, OCD, Provincial and Vicar Provincial, as well as other Carmelite friars took part in these meetings.

The Secular Order in Mexico continues to flourish. However, among its immediate priorities are the revision of the Provincial Statutes of the OCDS and the development of a formation plan, as well as the continued promotion of unity and fraternity among the communities.

The Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Mexico, in communion with the Order, have a large and important presence in many cities throughout the country.



India: inauguration of the Juniors' Course



The long-cherished dream of the Federation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was realized on March 1, 2025, with the inauguration of the Juniors' Course at Kurnool Carmel, the Federal Formation House.

Rev. Bishop Johannes Gorantla OCD presided over the inaugural Eucharistic celebration. In his homily, he encouraged the sisters to cultivate the spirit of little children. Fr. Gilbert, OCD, Chaplain of Kurnool Carmel, Fr. Ronald D'Souza, OCD, and a diocesan priest concelebrated the Eucharist.

Following the Mass, Bishop Johannes, Fr. Gilbert, and Fr. Ronald were invited to inaugurate the course. The Federal President, Sr. Theresita, welcomed them, along with the Federal Formator, Sr. Anna, Mother Grace, the Prioress of the hosting Carmel, and the five junior sisters. The two-month course, scheduled from March 1 to April 30, 2025, was formally inaugurated with the symbolic lighting of the lamps.

The federation extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Carmel of Kurnool for their generous support and assistance. Please keep them in your prayers.



Philippines: Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel celebrates golden jubilee as a parish



On 17 February 2025, the Minor Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the Philippines celebrated its 50th anniversary since being established as a parish in 1975. The concelebrated Eucharistic celebration marking the event was presided over by Most Rev. Elias Ayuban Jr., CMF, Bishop of Cubao, followed by a dinner fellowship held on the parish church grounds. Leading up to the anniversary day itself, a novena of Masses was celebrated, with the first to seventh days presided over by Discalced Carmelite friars who had served

as parish priests. On the eighth day, 15 February, the Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Rolando Tria-Tirona, OCD, Archbishop Emeritus of Caceres and the parish's first Filipino parish priest. Cubao Bishop Emeritus Honesto Ongtioco, who was instrumental in the church's elevation to the status of a national shrine and minor basilica, celebrated the Eucharist on the ninth day, 16 February. Activities in connection with the golden jubilee anniversary will continue throughout the year, centered around the theme: *Fifty Years Stories: Parish, Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving, Pilgrimage*.



Tanzania: Inauguration of Carmel Prayer House in Dodoma



January 18, 2025, was a day filled with joy for the Discalced Carmelite Friars of St. Therese of Child Jesus, Vicariate of Tanzania. A multitude of the faithful from Dar Es Salaam, Mbeya, Morogoro, and Dodoma gathered at Carmel Prayer House to be part of its history on the day of its inauguration and blessing. The inauguration of this spirituality centre was led by his Excellency, Beatus Kinyaiya OFM CAP, Archbishop of Dodoma. The Eucharist was offered as thanksgiving to God for the gift of this type of house in the archdiocese of Dodoma. The Regional Vicariate of St. Therese of Child Jesus remain grateful to God for the gift of this beautiful house of prayer. We extend our gratitude to our benefactors and well-wishers who have made this dream come true.





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