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# OCCP Communications

# The feminine Teresian Carmel in Chile

The Discalced Carmelite nuns of Chile recently published a text titled, "The daughters of Saint Teresa in Chile," in homage to Holy Mother Teresa in the context of the celebration of the fifth centenary of her birth.

The book begins with a Teresian biography emphasizing her relationship to America. As in any book, the narrative is accompanied by beautiful graphic selections of colonial paintings with representations of the life of Saint Teresa.

The middle part of the book is dedicated to a visual and narrative presentation of Chilean monasteries arranged chronologically, beginning with the first

foundation in Santiago on January 6, 1690, by nuns from Bolivia, and ending with the monastery of Mount Carmel founded in 2003 in Puerto Montt.

The care and beauty of the text, and most of all, of the images, permits the reader to approach the reality of the feminine Teresian Carmel in Chile, recognize Christ as the center of the life of each monastery, and perceive fraternal life and surrender for all people in prayer and work, which is the essence of existence of each Carmelite in the way Mother Teresa wanted and lived.

The book ends with an array of commentaries sent by each monastery.

<http://www.carmelitasdescalzas.cl/>

Carmelitas Descalzas de Chile  
CARMELOS ASOCIADOS

Contáctenos Sitios de interés

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Quiénes Somos

Somos mujeres consagradas a Dios que queremos vivir en obsequio de Jesucristo, a imitación de la Virgen María, ofreciendo nuestras vidas para que todos los hombres y mujeres de este mundo encuentren la paz, el amor y la felicidad que solo Dios puede dar.

Por eso hemos acogido el llamado de Dios para vivir con Cristo el misterio de su vida y muerte, y así alcanzar con todos su Resurrección, promesa de plenitud de vida y felicidad.

Esta vocación es un don del Espíritu que nos invita a una misteriosa unión con Dios, viviendo en amistad con Cristo y en intimidad con la virgen María. Nuestra oración e inmolación se funden vivamente con un amor grande a la Iglesia, la expresión del carisma teresiano, la consagración y orientación de nuestra energía hacia la salvación de todos los hombres.



Cómo vivimos >

Nuestra historia >

Te damos la bienvenida y te invitamos a recorrer de la mano de Teresa de Los Andes y nuestros santos padres Teresa de Jesús y Juan de la Cruz, el camino de nuestra vida escondida con Cristo en Dios por la iglesia y el mundo.

## The presence of Carmel in Zambia is growing

On the 12th of May last, the solemn blessing of the monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel took place in Mwanjawanthu, Zambia, in the diocese of Chipata, where the Manjummel Province established a mission five years ago. This is the second house of the Order in the diocese, together with that of Saint Teresa in Chamilala.

Fr. Jacob Paxy Alumkal, ocd, coordinator of the mission, informed us that the Bishop of Chipata, Mons Benjamin Phiri, presided at the ceremony together with our brother, Mons. George Tambala, Bishop of Zomba in Malawi, who had enthusiastically urged the creation of the mission during his time as Definitor General in Rome (2009-2016).

Also present was Fr Augustine Mulloor, ocd, Provincial of Manjummel.

NB: the photo is of the original group of missionaries in 2014.





# Presentation of the Commission for History

The 28th of April was an historic day for the Discalced Carmelite Order in Portugal, since on this day was officially presented in the monastery of our Fatima friars, the Commission for Historical Studies and Cultural Patrimony of the Teresian Carmel in the said province (CE-HOC-OCD, is its acronym in Portuguese). The presentation, at which Fr Pedro Ferreira the Provincial presided, was also graced by the presence of the President of the commission, Fr Joaquim Teixeira. This presentation day was opened by two lectures, one by the architect Teresa de Campos Coelho and the other by the engineer, Miguel Portela. Proceedings were brought to a close with a conference

by Fr Renato De la Cruz, ocd, concerning the two essential figures contributing to the shaping of the Teresian charism in Portugal: María de San José and José del Espíritu Santo.

The assistants - members of the commission and invited researchers - were able to visit the Commission's facilities (in Fatima's Domus Carmeli) and to enjoy a concert of Gregorian chant performed by the novices who live there.

Some resources of interest concerning the Commission are accessible on the internet, at the following site: [www.historia.carmelitas.pt](http://www.historia.carmelitas.pt) (which contains the magazine Studia Carmelita).



# Situation of Carmel in Venezuela

A few days ago, we received from Fr Daniel Rodríguez, the General Delegate of Venezuela, a letter bearing the significant title "Venezuela, a country to mourn". In it, Fr Daniel informed us of the emergency situation the country is going through at the moment and how the Carmelites are trying to be of help to those who have suffered the most from the crisis.

In the letter, Fr Daniel has highlighted the moral and spiritual foundation of the political and social "night" into which the country has plunged. In our brother's opinion, the situation can be described as a "voracious anarchy", in which crime and delinquency are spreading through an increasingly impoverished society, in which no exit is seen from a situation in which so many lack a dignified sustenance, while necessary foods and medicines are scarce, as





well as other means for developing a dignified life.

Faced with this bleak panorama, our brothers and sisters try to multiply themselves in order to help others, even when they too have to endure hardships: even the minimum of fuel necessary for cooking is lacking; the outages of electricity are continuous and prolonged causing, for example, our sisters in Maracaibo to suffer temperatures of 42 to 50 degrees centigrade [108 – 122 F] without electric fans.

From the Curia General, as well as from the Teresian Carmelite family of Colombia, Brazil, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Chile, Spain, Argentina and CITEs (Avila), among others, they receive various kinds of help, that has allowed them to distribute food and medicines to the most disadvantaged. The Secular Carmel keeps open a dining room in Mérida in the “El Salado” slum, but they can only offer one dish of weekly food.

The letter, of which we have made a very short resume, can be read in full in Spanish in the Spanish news section.



## Fr. Saverio in the 2018 Synod



On the 28th of May, Fr. Mauro Jöhri, OFM Cap, President of the USG, gave Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, the Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, the names of the Superiors General, elected during the recent Assembly of the Union of Superiors General, as members of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Among the ten elected is our Father General, Saverio Cannistrà, ocd.

The XV Assembly will take place between the coming 13th and 28th of October and the topic of discussion will be: “The Youth, faith and vocational discernment”.

# World Day for Carmelite Youth

The World Day for Youth will take place between the 22nd and the 27th of January next year [2019] in Panama. The Discalced Carmelites of the Province of Central America, invite us to the World Day for Carmelite Youth, which will be celebrated, God willing, on the 28th of January. To facilitate participation by the youth from throughout the world, they have set up this web page in eight languages: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, English, German, Russian and Latin:

<http://jmjcarmelitana.org/>

This IV World Day has as its topic: “God is infinite joy”. Fr Marco Antonio Durán, the Provincial, begins his letter of welcome in this manner:

Very dear young people of the Family of Carmel. In the context of the coming World Youth Day, to be held in Panama in January 2019, our Teresian Carmelite Province of Central America is filled with much joy and hope in hosting our IV Carmelite Day for the Youth.

As the Provincial of the Discalced Carmelites, and in the name of my brethren, the Discalced Carmelite friars, the Discalced Carmelite nuns and the Secular Carmel of Central America, I give you the warmest WELCOME to this website, which aims to be “a window to meet each other, to get to know one another, to encourage each other and to get organized”, in view of the Carmelite Youth Day, which we will hold, God willing, on the 28th of January 2019”.



## IV JORNADA CARMELITANA JUVENIL

*Dios es Alegría Infinita*



O



PAGINE

Lettera di invito  
Scalzi Carmelitani  
registrazione Group  
iscrizione individuale  
registrazione  
logo  
Patrona della GMG  
Social networking  
video

LINGUA

Italian



# Bangui, wounded, and in need of heroes

Newsletter 21 from the Carmel in Bangui – 8 May 2018

At the most difficult moments heroes arise, and  
« I do not doubt that these heroes exist here too in the Central African Republic, willing to rise up as one and say ‘no’ to violence, ‘no’ to barbarity, ‘no’ to destruction of their own selves.” This was the appeal addressed by Cardinal Dieudonné Nzapalainga, the Archbishop of Bangui to the people of the capital and of the entire nation, during these critical days, so fraught with tension and sadness.

So what happened in Bangui? On the morning of 1 May, during the celebration of Holy Mass in the church of Our Lady of Fatima, just a short distance from our own Carmel, a group of armed men from the Km5 quarter of the capital (a majority Muslim enclave which for years has been the main focal point of the tensions in the capital) opened fire on the people praying there, leaving many dead and wounded. The attack happened in reprisal for an attempt on the part of the forces of law and order to capture some of the members of this armed group, which in practice is holding the capital to ransom, including even some of their own fellow Muslims in the quarter.

The faithful in the church has just finished proclaiming their faith and were about to begin with the Offertory. But instead, the Mass continued with the sacrifice of 16 Christians, among them a priest,



Abbé Albert Tungumale Baba. The clashes then continued – for several days – in other parts of the city, leaving more people dead, others wounded and two mosques destroyed. Moreover, the attack on Our Lady of Fatima church, which has wounded the entire city and left it stunned and incredulous, came just a few weeks after the murder in Séko, in the centre of the country, of another priest, Abbé Désiré Angbabata, along with 11 of his parishioners. Abbé Albert, aged 71, was one of the oldest members of the clergy in Bangui and was a priest well known and admired for his simplicity and kindly manner, and above all for his quiet but indefatigable efforts for reconciliation between Christians and Muslims. During some of the most critical moments of the war, in his parish, which is extremely close to the Km5 enclave, he took in thousands of refugees from the surrounding quarters. Abbé Albert was moreo-



ver known to everyone for his great love of the Sango language, the national language of Central Africa, which is not particularly rich in its vocabulary. Abbé Albert managed to translate every single word – without using French – by using ingenious solutions or amusing turns of phrase. On one occasion, as we were travelling by car together, he translated my name quite simply, declaring that I should call myself Bwa (which in Sango means priest) Federiki

In an interview, Abbé Albert once said that only God can save Central Africa. He was not so far from the truth. So many of us have tried, and are still trying, to save Central Africa – the national army, the troops of the African Union, the French mission (which at least has had the great merit of preventing the conflict from degenerating into a massacre), the soldiers of the European Union, then MINUSCA, the major UN mission (which, despite all its limitations, remains the only possible solution for the moment), and now even the Russians are on the horizon. Even Pope Francis has tried, with his visit in November 2015, which at least secured us a truce sufficient to enable us to democratically elect a new president. But with time, however, the effects of his visit seem to have evaporated and the opportunity to turn a new page has been squandered for the umpteenth time. The clashes have increased throughout the country, and the peace, which we had barely begun to touch, now seems almost further away than before.

Why did this war come about? And why does it seem impossible to stop it? Wars are always complex matters, started for so many different reasons and evolving over time. Even for people who have been living here for years it is difficult to explain the real reasons behind the conflict, and still more difficult to suggest the right method to put out the fire, while at the same time preventing it from breaking out again here and there – just like the fires in the savanna, so to speak – leaving nothing but death, destruction, fear and despair. At the present time the two opposing factions are not even as easy to tell apart as they were in the early years of the war – with the Seleka (the majority Muslim coalition of militias, which also included foreign mercenaries) and the anti-balaka (the self-defence militia which arose in defence of the people of

the country – nominally majority Christian, but from which the bishops have always kept their distance). The Seleka have been officially dissolved. Every rebel group has its own leader, its own goals and its own area of influence. There is no longer the fighting house-to-house, and quarter by quarter, which Bangui witnessed in 2013 and 2014. Now the battles involve self-defence groups, UN soldiers and the Armed Forces. Three quarters of the country is effectively out of control and beyond the authority of the state.

The war in Central Africa, which in reality began in 2012, is not a religious or ethnic conflict. Rather it is yet another of the umpteenth conflicts for power and the exploitation of the abundant mineral riches beneath the soil. Sadly, however, the denominational element has become a violent part of it, poisoning that peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims which made of Central Africa – in a time that now seems long ago – an example of peaceful coexistence. Seko and Fatima are confirmation that we still have a long way to go before we can return to that earlier situation. During his homily for the funeral of the murdered priest and for some of the other victims, the Cardinal of Bangui had some tough words for everyone, denouncing the inertia of the government, the slowness of the UN and the risk that Christians might give way to despair or, worse still, to the logic of violence and vendetta. There is an insidious enemy who is trying to destroy Central Africa. And this enemy, as the Cardinal spelled it out, is the devil. Only the weapons of faith can defeat him.

Bangui, although wounded to the heart of its faith, has not become angry with God. Rather, it is angered by those men do not want peace and seem almost to obey a hidden agenda, determined to paralyse the country as though it were ineluctably condemned to poverty and war. Bangui and all of Central Africa are in need of heroes – among our rulers, our soldiers, our young people. May they rise up as one man and say ‘no’ to war and ‘yes’ to peace.

Bwa Federik, P. Federico Trincherio, ocd



## New Documents

- General Definitory Letter 13
- Acta Ordinis 2017





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