



OCED Communications

Meeting in Egypt

At the end of December, the traditional meeting of Bishops and Patriarchs took place in Cairo, Egypt. Several topics concerning the situation of Christians in that country were discussed. They also, as do our brothers in the faith, sometimes suffer the persecution that currently hammers the Middle East. The Delegate General of the Discalced Carmelites for Egypt, Father Patrizio Sciadini, attended as president of the confederation of religious residing in that country. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters who continue proclaiming the Gospel in those lands.



Bishop Gonzalo del Castillo Crespo, OCD, has died



Born in La Paz, Bolivia, on September 20th, 1936, he made his profession in the Discalced Carmel and received the name Gonzalo de Jesús María on February 10th, 1957. He was ordained to the priesthood on October 21st, 1963, and on January 7th, 1985, he was consecrated bishop. From 2000, he held the office of Military Bishop of Bolivia. He was currently the Military Bishop Emeritus and resided in a community of Discalced Carmelites – Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish – in La Paz. He had been ill for several months, and on January 14th slipped into a coma and died a few hours later.

Bishop Gonzalo was outstanding for his closeness to the armed forces, migrants, and refugees. His death caused great lament in the Bolivian see as well as among civil and military authorities that have expressed their condolences to the Bolivian Carmel.

His funeral was celebrated on January 16th, Cardinal Toribio P. Ticona presiding, and numerous bishops concelebrated. The Provincial of Iberia, Father Miguel Márquez, OCD, sent a message of condolence, and the Regional Vicar, Father Carlos Medina, OCD, offered a recollection of the human and spiritual figure of Bishop Gonzalo. May he rest in peace.



From our well-loved Fr. Federico Trincheri, a Discalced Carmelite friar, we have received news from the Central African Republic, in particular about Carmel in Bangui, the Capital. After the terrible massacre carried out in November in Alindao, about 500 kilometres from the capital, by an Islamist group (paradoxically called the “Union for Peace in the RCA”) during which more than eighty people died, the city was totally looted and the Church desecrated, the Catholics of the country were left in a strong state of shock. Among the victims were two priests and through the courageous intervention of the young bishop of the diocese, Bishop D. Cyr-Néstor Yapaupa, the lives of hundreds of people were saved as he organized their escape into the savannah, he himself remaining behind.

The initial moments of pain and bewilderment having past, the dioceses of Central Africa proposed that December 1st, the National holiday, be dedicated to prayer for peace and reconciliation. But it's not all bad news. Despite the difficulties faced by three-quarters of the country, our missions are still working at full capacity, although a

“normal” day would be quite an event for everyone. In addition, on 8th of December, was celebrated the solemn profession of brother Michael, a Discalced Carmelite. He is the eighth of twelve brothers, whose blind father did not miss the ceremony. With his definitive incorporation into the Order, for the first time the number of native religious surpasses that of the Italian missionaries.

Grateful that we can transmit some good news, we also indicate some means by which we can help our brothers financially:

- 1) by bank transfer to Missioni CARMELITANE LIGURI using IBAN: IT42D050343183000000010043;
- 2) by payment through the Postal current account N. 43276344 in favour of AMICIZIA Missionaria ONLUS.
- 3) SWIFT Code for a transfer from abroad is BAP-PIT2150

More information on the website: [www.Amiciziamissionaria. It/Donazioni. aspx](http://www.Amiciziamissionaria.It/Donazioni.aspx)

News from Bangui Carmel



400 years of Carmel in India



As we have reported in detail through our social networks, this year 2019 marks 400 years since the arrival of the first Discalced Carmelite missionaries to the region of Goa, India.

At the same time and place, the Extraordinary Definitory was celebrated, allowing the Major Superiors of all the circumscriptions of the Order, led by Fr. General and his Definitors, to be able to participate in the initial celebrations of this jubilee.

We thank God for the gift of the Teresian Carmelite Order to India and we hope that this occasion will be a source of blessings for all our brothers and sisters present in that country and all the missions undertaken by the various provinces of India.

European meeting of the Discalced Carmelite formators

From the 28th of January to the 1st of February, at the University of mysticism, the Discalced Carmelite Order in Europe organized a meeting of the religious who, in the Discalced Carmel, are involved in the process of formation. There are 14 provinces of friars who take part in this annual formation meeting. These provinces are distributed in 9 countries: Belgium, Croatia, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, and Lebanon which is linked to the European provinces. Thirty-two formators gathered to discuss the theme “Community: a place of encounter and communion”. The speakers at the conference numbered three: Father Gonzalo Fernandez, Vicar General

of the Claretians Missionaries, who addressed the topic “The Challenges of community life. Solutions from the culture and psychology of today’s youth”; Juan Antonio Marcos, a Carmelite, spoke about “Educating freedom in the spiritual path according to the Saints of Carmel”, and finally the Jesuit, Luis María García Domínguez, developed the topic: “How to accompany: techniques of dialogue between formators and those being formed”. The participants in this meeting spent the afternoons of the 29th and the 31st visiting places in the city of Avila associated with Teresa. A visit to Duruelo, the site of the first male foundation by Teresa, was held on the morning of the 30th.



Course for the nuns in Peru

The “OUR LADY OF MY CARMEL” Association of Discalced Carmelite nuns in Peru, recently carried out a course on Vultum Dei Querere and Cor Orans, recent documents from the Holy See. It was presented in 3 locations: North, South and Centre, and on different dates, with great participation of the sisters. The course was given by the following Discalced Carmelites: Fr Pedro Zubieta, who prepared the work sheets, Fr. Alfredo Amesti, Commissar, and Fr Ángel Zapata, the Association’s consultor. The course was presented from the 14th to the 16th of January in the North zone, from the 20th to the 23rd in the South zone and from the 28th to the 30th of the same month in the Central zone.





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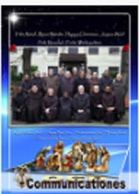
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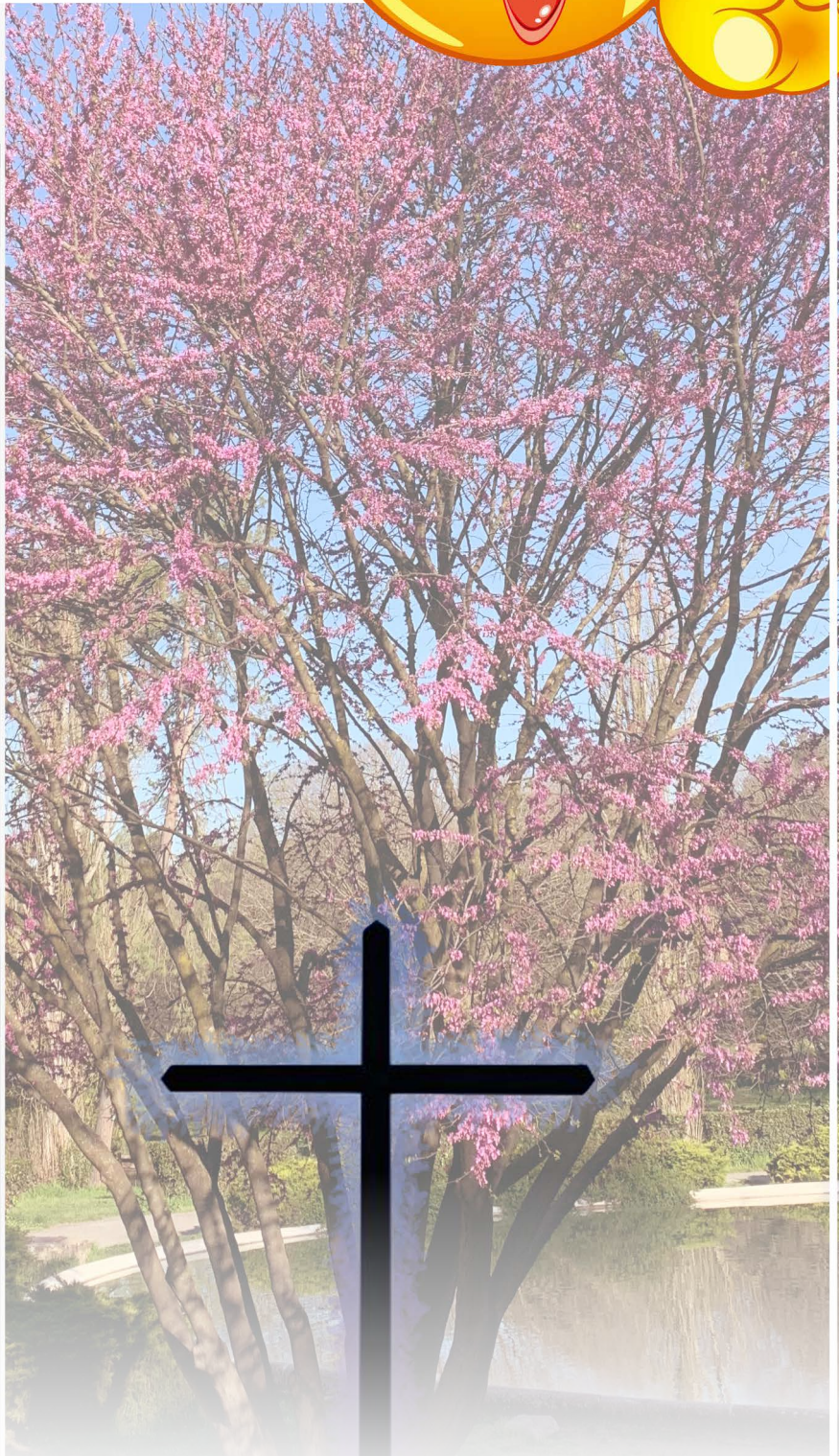
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