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COMMUNICATIONES





Visits by our Superiors



Fr General, Saverio Cannistrà is visiting the United States of America at the moment, in particular the Province of Washington. This Province, which bears the name of the Sacred Heart of Mary, was born in the late forties of the last century, but sinks its deepest roots in the arrival in Wisconsin in 1906 of the Discalced Carmelite friars from Bavaria. These religious erected the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians and in 1914 added to their duties care of the parish of St. Florian, in Milwaukee West.

Fr Agustí Borrell, Vicar General, has ended his visit to the Navarre Province. In addition to dialogue with all the religious and visiting the monasteries of this circumscription, he was able to



celebrate a fraternal day on October 12th with the Carmelite family of Navarre. On the 30th of October, the official conclusion of the visit took place.

For his part, Fr Javier Mena paid a visit to the sprawling delegation of Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay, which belongs to the Iberian Province, while Fr Mariano Agruda visited some monasteries of Discalced Carmelite nuns in the Philippines.



Association of Carmelites in the Holy Land

The Association of Carmelites in the Holy Land is a fraternal bond of mutual help, it has existed since the end of the 90s. Today we have become a new reality which is now called, “Federation our Lady of Mount Carmel of the Carmelite Nuns in the Middle East and North Africa “. For it has been enriched by the carmels of Egypt (Al Fayum), Morocco (Tangier) and Syria (Aleppo). We met in Cyprus from the 16th to the 21st of September. It was a rich moment of meeting, exchange and working on our Statutes, revised according to the last documents of the Church.

“By listening, we know ourselves more and more. Those who are wise are the ones who never stop discovering », said Fr. Miguel Marquez (Carmelite father, provincial of the Iberian Province) to introduce and accompany our exchanges.

Father Antoine-Marie Leduc (Discalced Carmelite, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life) helped us to deepen our mission in the Church of the Middle East and North Africa by accompanying our work on of our statutes. “One can never oppose the law and the Holy Spirit, the charism and the institution”.





CARMELITE FEDERATION
OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA

JM+JT



Cyprus, 21 September 2019
Feast of the Apostle Saint Matthew

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Carmel, with hearts full of joy and hope, we greet you!

We — Carmelite Sisters of the Middle East and North Africa, from sixteen nationalities, now on concluding our federal assembly — want to share with you news from our Federation, which is broadening its horizons.

In the presence of Carmelite Fathers of this vast region and with the Carmel of Athens, we gathered together in Cyprus, the Island of Encounter, a land evangelized by the Apostles Paul and Barnabas,¹ a land where our Order lived during its first three centuries: Cyprus — the first place of our Order's expansion following its founding in Palestine.² We met together in our Assembly, Carmelite Sisters of the Holy Land, Syria, Egypt, and Morocco; we now constitute seven monasteries united in spiritual and geographical affinity. We live in a predominantly non-Christian environment, at the crossroads of the three great monotheistic religions and in a plurality of cultures. Our communities are composed of Sisters from the local church, as well as others who, led by the Holy Spirit, have come from all over the world; rooted in the countries where we now live, we seek to witness in prayer and authentic mutual love.

"Baptized and sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world" is the inspired title of the Extraordinary Missionary Month recently announced by Pope Francis. We invite you to enter into the breath of the Holy Spirit that opens our hearts to welcome all humanity, and especially our sisters and brothers who suffer because of their faith. We invite you to join in our mission, especially by also supporting and praying for Christians in regions of persecution.

¹ See generally Acts 13.

² SAGGI LUDOVICO, *Storia dell'Ordine Carmelitano*, p 33ss.



We would like to show you the beauty of living as persons of prayer in an environment of prayer, in poor and minority churches; in holy places imbued with the presence of the Lord, the apostles, and countless saints who have testified that the "*dialogue of salvation and friendship ... is possible*".³

"Now we begin. Let us strive always to begin again and to advance from good to better." (F 29:32) To this present day, we continue to listen to the voice of our holy mother Saint Teresa, who continues to encourage and support us by weaving bonds of mutual love between our communities. We live in an opportune moment in these precarious times, and together we have recognized the voice of our Bridegroom who speaks to us in the night.

If you feel called by the Lord to live our mission⁴ in these lands of Christianity's founding, you are invited to answer that call with us!

"In the name of God who has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and who has called them to live together as brothers and sisters, to fill the earth and make known the values of goodness, love and peace",⁵ we extend our warm wishes to you, our brothers and sisters, and we ask the Virgin Mary, Queen and Beauty of Carmel, to keep you under her maternal protection.



Your Carmelite Sisters of
Aleppo in Syria, El Fayum in Egypt, Tanger in Morocco
and Haifa, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem in the Holy Land

³ POPE FRANCIS, Apostolic Journey to Morocco, 30-31 March 2019.

⁴ Decree *Ad Gentes* on the mission activity of the Church (18).

⁵ *Document on Human Fraternity*, Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019.



XVI Federal Ordinary Assembly “Carmelites of Mexico”



From September 14th to 20th of this year, the Federation “San José de Guadalupe” of Discalced Carmelites of Mexico gathered to celebrate their XVI Federal Ordinary Assembly. The Priors and Delegates of the 37 monasteries that form the Federation participated.

Accompanied by the Provincial Council of Discalced Carmelites of Mexico and with guidance inspired by the documents *Vultum Dei Querere* and *Cor Orans*, the participants reflected on themes related to the life of the Federation in the process of preparing a brief guide for canonical visits and that will help the president in the work of co-Visitor. A draft for the activities of the coming quatercentenary was also prepared.

Federación "San José de Guadalupe"
Carmelitas Descalzas, México
XVI Asamblea Ordinaria



Consejo electo 2019-2023
 Arriba de izquierda a derecha:
 Edna María de Jesús Sacramentado, 1a. Consejera
 Ma. Guadalupe de la Eucaristía, 4a. Consejera
 Ma. de Lourdes de Jesús, Ecónoma federal
 Abajo de izquierda a derecha:
 Ma. Eugenia de Jesús, 2a. Consejera
 Gema de Jesús Crucificado, Presidenta
 Miriam del Monte Carmelo, 3a. Consejera

The Council for 2019 – 2023 is comprised of:

Sister Gema de Jesús Crucificado
 (Ayala Flores), President
 Monastery of "St. Joseph of Guadalupe," México City

Sister Edna María de Jesús Sacramentado (Salcido Kitazawa), 1st Counselor
 Monastery of "St. Teresa," Guadalajara

Sister Maria Eugenia de Jesús (Beltrán Ramírez), 2nd Counselor
 Monastery of "St. Joseph," Celaya

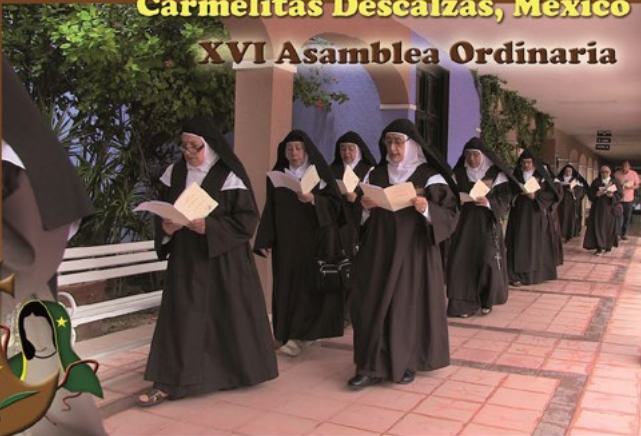
Sister Miriam del Monte Carmelo (Viveros Sotelo), 3rd Counselor
 Monastery of "The Transverberation of St. Teresa of Jesus," Guadalajara

Sister Maria Guadalupe de la Eucaristía (González Camacho), 4th Counselor
 Monastery "Jesus Transubstantiated and St. Mary of Guadalupe," Tlupetlac,

And in the new Federal office:
Sister María de Lourdes de Jesús Sacramentado (Salas Mar), Ecónoma
 Monastery of "St. John of the Cross," San Juan Ixtayopan, CDMX

May the Queen and Beauty of Carmel accompany them in their service.

Federación "San José de Guadalupe"
Carmelitas Descalzas, México
XVI Asamblea Ordinaria



Proceso para la elección



Our Definitors in Latin America



Fr. Javier Mena, OCD, participated in the “Santa Teresa de los Andes and the Family Spirituality” Congress that took place in the city of Guatemala this past November from the 6th to the 10th. Participants in the Congress, organized by the Secular Carmelites of Central America, included 147



secular Carmelites and some religious from 12 Central American countries. The Congress was offered as an homage to St. Teresa of the Andes in the centenary of her death.

When the gathering ended, the Definitor for Latin America and the Caribbean traveled to the capital of Colombia, Santa Fé de Bogota, where he joined Fr. Agusti Borrell, the OCD General Vicar, to encourage a meeting of young friars from the Circumscription. During the gathering, a draft of the Charismatic Declaration prepared by the Definitor General will be debated. This document will be presented for revision and final approval at the coming General Chapter. The Vicar General was able to make a brief visit to the brothers in Ecuador before his arrival in Colombia.





Carmelitanum Institute of Spirituality in Warsaw, Poland

The Warsaw Province has created the Carmelitanum Institutes of Spirituality with the purpose of promoting the Discalced Carmelite spirituality.

So far, three exist, situated in the cities of Poznan, Sopot, and Wroclaw. This past October 8th, the doors of a new branch were opened in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, in the facilities of the Discalced Carmelite convent inaugurated two years ago in the city's center.

Fr. Wojciech Ciak, OCD, led the building

of this new branch. The Institute marked the official inauguration on the Solemnity of St. Teresa of Jesus with the celebration of the Eucharist in the convent's church followed by a conference offered by Dr. Rafal Tichy on the subject: Time for the Apocalypse. Currently, 87 students are enrolled in a three-year cycle for the specialization. The Discalced Carmelite professors and a team of invited professors give the Institute a level of quality that makes it a point of reference for the Church in Warsaw.



“Caring for Our Common Home”



This was the theme of the V Encounter of the CIC-LA-central OCDS (Secular Carmelites from the central section of the Circumscription of the International Confederation of Latin American Carmelites) which took place from the 25th to the 29th of September in the St. Joseph of Cluny retreat house in Lima, Peru. Some 100 Secular Carmelites from Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and one representative from Panama met. Present were the Commissary of Peru, Fr. Alfredo Amesti, OCD, as well as the Delegates for the Secular Carmelites of Ecuador, Fr. Juan Berdonces, and Colombia, Fr. Carlos Plata, and the General Delegate for Secular Carmelites, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani.

Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, was the source of reflection in the development of themes related to the commitment of the Secular Carmelites in the care for our common home through concrete gestures, even small ones.

At the same time, themes were developed for the various OCDS Provincial Councils related to formation as the care of the community (Peru), the expansion that builds and brings life to the community (Ecuador), and the difficulties in building the community (Colombia). The introduction was followed by a time for sharing and a plenary for the conclusions and illuminations.

For all the experiences, very positive and time well spent, we thank the friars and seculars of Peru for their fraternal and cordial reception. The next assembly of the CICLA-central will take place in the year 2022 in Colombia.





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