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Updates on the website

During the first days of May we have done some update work on the website. Therefore we have not been able to upload news to it since early May. Similarly, the next issue of **COMMUNICATIONES** will include less news than usual.

We apologize and encourage you to follow the current affairs of the Order on the various social networks.



COVID-19

News

In recent weeks we have received some news about the pandemic caused by COVID-19. From the Iberian Province of Discalced Carmelites, the sad news arrived of the death of four religious because of the virus. There are reports of friars and nuns being infected and having to go to hospital. We entrust them to our prayers. Some monasteries have had to undergo periods of isolation, which they have completed. The Discalced Carmelite community of friars in Adro, Italy, has passed a

quarantine period. Countless are the reports of material help given by our communities of friars and nuns to people in need. So, in Paraguay, our religious have turned to helping the poor through “popular pots”, which allow the poor to enjoy at least a daily amount of nourishment.

We pray for the friars and nuns who have been infected and we appreciate the witness of Christian charity and service to the community offered by our brothers and sisters in various ways, as they are able.



Indian's Journey in Combatting Covid -19

C OVID-19 has brought the world to a Stop! As we know it has already swallowed over 2,50,000 people and kept billions of people under panic and fear! Over 3 million people affected by the virus still growing! Here is a small information on what's happening in India
As of 6th May it has affected around 50,000 people, around 15000 recovered and has witnessed around 1700 deaths, so far. This is quite an insignificant number compared to the Indian population of over 1300 millions. As for today it sounds rather good and seem to be under control. But this virus has become



unpredictable in its behavior as in its diffusion. So far it has spread in 35 states of India. Maharashtra, Gujarat; Delhi, Tamil-nadu are in the forefront in the number of cases.

India's Response: On 22 March, India went into a self-imposed isolation — a “Janta Curfew” — when the nation had only seen 390 cases. Strategic move of a three-week lockdown on 25 March, at just 400 cases has really saved India. But today it has already reached 50,000 inspite of the continued lock down of the country. From 25 March until today the lock down continues in the country. It has been extended until 17 May: neither trains, buses nor plains function. All religious activities too



are banned. Like other parts of the world Easter was celebrated in their homes.

Present Challenges in the total Lock Down: One of the biggest challenges that the country faces are lack of food for poor and middle-class families. In India most of the families depend on daily wages and daily labour. Now that the lock down is so stringent that they can't go out to work. However, the Government and other Non-Governmental organizations are trying to supply some food and provisions to the families.





From the day of lock down many migrant laborers are caught up in their workplaces. They tried in vain to go back to their homes. Hence feeding them, and their situation has become miserable during these past weeks. As of today 14th April, the cases have gone up to 50,000. If there were not to be a lock-down, this number would have been a million. Such could be the growth rate of the virus in India.

The Church and all the charitable organizations are trying to do their best to feed the poor and the hungry. This is the consequence of a total lock down. However, Indians are ready to accept the hunger and be united in fighting the Corona Virus.

Our Brothers and Sisters: As of now I have not heard of any casualties among our friars or sisters in India due to Corona. However, our friars are actively taking initiatives to feed the hungry which is the urgent need of the situation. Wherever we are present we take initiatives to distribute kits containing food; provisions, sanitizers, masks etc. That's all we can do. Our Nuns all over India are praying day and night unceasingly for the divine intervention.

*(P. Johannes Gorantla,
Definitior for South Asia)*

Listening and accompanying

The pandemic crisis generated by COVID-19, with the consequent confinement of millions of people on five continents, has also affected the daily service that Discalced Carmelite friars and nuns offer to so many people, in the face of the impossibility of celebrating Mass in convents and monasteries, receiving visitors, performing apostolic services, etc. However, many of our brothers and sisters have mobilized to continue listening to and accompanying the Christian people and suffering humanity at this painful and particular moment. The deceased and their families, the sick, health workers, governments and all those who, in some way or other, have been hit by the pandemic, as well as those who have put themselves on the front line of service to society, have been at the centre of our prayer. In addition, from many convents and monasteries the media, particularly the internet and social networks, have been used to transmit Mass live or hold



prayer meetings. Thus, both on Facebook and YouTube, it has been possible to participate, at least virtually, in Eucharistic celebrations in various countries and languages:

Italian, Spanish, English, French, Malayalam, etc.

Carmelite communities in many countries have used every means at their disposal to share audios and videos - for

example, through WhatsApp - with reflections, readings from the writing of our saints, etc., to encourage and accompany confined people.

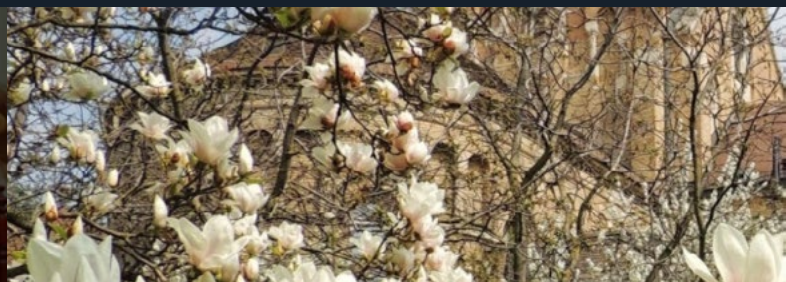
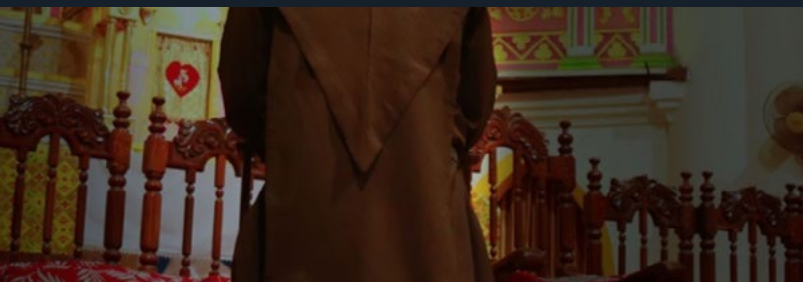
CITeS in Avila has scheduled several courses at this time and has also released videos with reflections on the daily gospel. For its part, the Teresianum Theological Faculty has continued its academic work by implementing a class system by videoconference and a personalized follow-up of students through email.



At the General Curia, we try to share on our social networks all the news we have received, as well as the different messages sent by Fr. Saverio Cannistrà during this

time. His letter *"A Wish in Time of Tribulation"* has had a special impact both inside and outside the Order. All these pastoral actions have been united with charitable

efforts reflected in the sharing of goods with the poorest and work to manufacture masks and other useful garments for protection against the disease. We have heard of a certain Carmelite community of nuns that experienced serious deprivation in sharing basic necessities - including food - with needy families who are close to the monastery. Their situation has already been normalized and they prefer to remain anonymous.



CARMEL DARSHAN MANJUMMEL
2640 suscriptores



Teresianischer Karmel
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