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OCD

COMMUNICATIONES





CASA GENERALIZIA CARMELITANI SCALZI
CORSO D'ITALIA, 38 - 00198 ROMA

Prot. n. 2021/227 DF

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Teresian Carmel,

The General Definitory, in its 181st session on the 9th of June, 2021, decided to confirm the convocation of the General Chapter of Discalced Carmelites, already made on March 3, 2021 (Prot. 2021/059 DF). The Chapter will officially begin on Monday, **August 30, 2021** (morning), at the Casa "La Salle" in Via Aurelia 472, 00165 Rome.

However, due to the health restrictions currently in effect and the inevitable repercussions on the work of the Chapter, the General Definitory has modified the date for the conclusion of the General Chapter: no longer September 19, but Tuesday, **September 14, 2021** (evening).

More detailed news on the preparation of the event will be sent to the members of the General Chapter as soon as possible.

Once again, we urge all the friars, the nuns of our Order, and the OCDS to pray so that God may pour out his graces for the success of the General Chapter. We entrust these intentions to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and of St. Therese of Jesus.

Rome, June 9, 2021



Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, OCD
Superior General

Fr. Angelo Lanfranchi, OCD
General Secretary

Lipa Carmel's 75th Anniversary of Foundation

(written by the sisters of Lipa)



Founded on 31 May 1946, our Carmel is celebrating this year our Diamond Jubilee of Foundation, 75 years of prayerful presence in the Archdiocese of Lipa (Batangas, Philippines). It is a very rare grace that our Founder was Bishop Alfredo Verzosa and that his Auxiliary Bishop was Bishop Alfredo Maria Obviar. Both bishops are now Servants of God on the road to Sainthood. Bishop Verzosa wrote to Mother Theresa of Jesus: "I thank you most effusively, dear Mother, for your work in my diocese and for having founded in it the beloved Carmel of Lipa, the child of my eyes and the repose of my heart."

Who would have thought of founding a Carmel in 1946 when Lipa was one of the most devastated areas during the war that had ended less than a year before? It needed the compelling faith of hidden saints. The founding group from Manila Carmel consisted of Mother Theresa of Jesus, Sr. Mary Cecilia of Jesus, Sr. Mary of St. Joseph, Sr. Mary Anne of Jesus, Sr. Alphonse of Mary, Sr. Mary Elizabeth of the Sacred Heart and Sr. Carmen of the Good Shepherd. The Titular Patroness of our Carmel is Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All



Grace and the Secondary Patroness is our Holy Mother St. Teresa. Our Carmel's Charism is God's Merciful Love. It is with deeply grateful hearts that we thank God for our 75 years of Carmelite presence in Lipa. The growth of our monastery is a testimony of faithful love and service to Holy Mother the Church, as we give our lives for souls, especially for priests. We are now 22 nuns, with promising young vocations.

In closing, we prayerfully reflect on the words written by Mother Mary Cecilia of Jesus, our foundress, in 1970: "Lipa Carmel is the Carmel of God's Merciful Love. The years that have passed have been the unfolding of God's mystery, the condescension of Love and Mercy...Yes, God is the Maker of history. Sunlight and shadow show forth His glory. Here He has childlike souls whose weakness will make His power manifest. We press on to the goal. With expectant hearts we look up to our Holy Mother St. Teresa, to renew in us her double spirit so that like her, we may be valiant, generous and true daughters of the Church."



PATRICK DIVIETRI, OCDS, *CANTATA CARMELITA*

A musical reflection on the mystical
life of Theresa of Avila



Dr. Patrick DiVetri is a member of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, a Pastoral Counselor, and an ACPE Psychotherapist Member, a professor of Philosophy and Theology, a musician, a composer, an author, and a family man. He is the Executive Director of the Family Life Institute (Manassas, VA, USA). Above all else, he is a man whose life has centered on his desire to do the Will of God first and always. In that Will, his musical work too has been created for the love and glory of God and the benefit of those.

Dr. Patrick DiVietri is the author of the *Cantata Carmelita*. Poems and music composed by Dr. DiVietri, the *Cantata Carmelita* is meant to be a reflection upon various types of unity and their binding agent, love. Love is considered not only as a desire for union with the good but also as the power, which above all others forms integrity within a person, binding him to others and God. This personal integrity, which results from the acquisition of virtues, enables a man to have self-possession. Only then is he free to give himself to the beloved and to God and to dedicate himself to those things which are considered to be noble and worthy of man's dignity.

The *Cantata* begins and ends with poems in which individuals speak to God about their love and desire to be united with Him. The first poem is about "a young man" who desires to be "like God" and attempts to stand alone against evil for the sake of the good. The second poem is about Teresa of Avila, a saint, who makes a similar stance, though not alone. These two are united by a common purpose: to stand against evil out of love for God and to encourage others to do so as well. To accomplish this goal, both decide to conform their entire lives to the will and love of God.

<https://www.cantatacarmelita.org/>

courtesy of © Rome Records





A Theatrical visit to Gotarrendura

The residence of the Ahumada family in Gotarrendura (Avila, Spain) was one of the favorite places of entertainment for the 16th-century nobility. It was the dowry of Beatriz de Ahumada, Teresa's mother, which Alonso de Cepeda, her father, completed by buying a dovecote. This dovecote left its mark on the soul of *The Mother* to the point that she called all her convents "Palomarcicos" (dovecotes) and her nuns "palomas" (doves). Saint Teresa inherited this property at the express wish of her mother, who knew her affection for the dovecote. Today, out of the whole property, only a limited section remains, with its orchard and its dovecote.

On Saturday, June 12, a theatrical visit to Saint Teresa's dovecote took place in Gotarrendura. It was an imaginary visit by Teresa of Jesus to her property. The Saint gives a tour of her property to the nun accompanying her and takes the opportunity to relate her memories of her youth. The climax of the performance comes at a time when Saint Teresa, walking with her father, evokes the four ways of watering her garden and the degrees of prayer.

This performance was created by a group of teachers and students from the Catholic University of Avila (UCAV). It is the result of research work on "La Colombaia Teresiana" by Professor María Jesús Carravilla, as part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Doctorate of Saint Teresa. The preview took place on April 12, during the "Mujer excepcional" International Congress. The adaptation and staging were done by Mr Juan José Severo Huertas.

On the same day, the garden and fountain of Santa Teresa were inaugurated.



Inauguration of the Memorial to Father Jacques de Jésus

On the 2nd of June, 2021, the Memorial to Fr Jacques was inaugurated in the Avon monastery (Paris, France). The day began with Mass, at which presided Monsignor Nahmias, Bishop of Meaux. Also present were our Father General and Monsignor Follo, permanent observer of the Holy See at UNESCO.

Afterwards, an outdoor meal was shared in the monastery gardens. It was a time of sharing and conviviality. There were around one hundred people representing all the “nuances” of Father Jacques: Carmel with its friars, nuns, members of the Secular Carmel and the Carmelite family; the Jewish world through various associations (Yad Vashem, Holocaust Memorial), the local Jewish community and a representative of the Embassy of Israel; the political world with the Mayor, his Deputy. Senator Ouzoulias, whose grandfather came to meet Father Jacques about the Resistance, and other officers; Father Jacques’ family, descendants of people who knew him well, former students of the Petit Collège; people from the worlds of education, the local military and civil society.

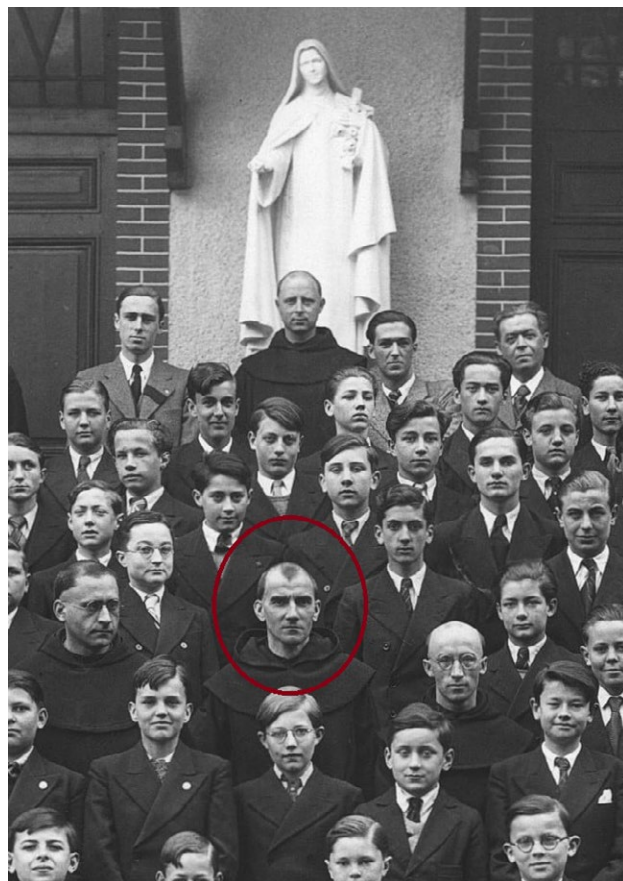
At the cemetery of the Avon monastery, where Father Jacques is buried, the Father Provincial, Christophe-Marie Baudouin, gave a welcome speech to the 150 people present. There was the laying of a wreath of flowers from the town hall and a moment of recollection accompanied by the musical group *NoteSolidaires*. Then, in the courtyard of the monastery, the Mayor of Avon, the representative of the Embassy of Israel, the representative of Yad Vashem, as well as a former student of the Petit Collège of Avon, who was present on the day of the arrest of Father Jacques and the three Jewish children (January 15, 1944), each took turn in speaking. Finally, our Father General cut the ribbon to signify the official opening of the Memorial. The first visits could then begin while an honorable wine was served for all participants.



The Memorial is open during the week, with free access, from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Father Jacques de Jésus (1900–1945) joined the Discalced Carmelites in 1931. In 1934, he founded the Petit-Collège Sainte-Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus in Avon. There he implemented modern and innovative teaching methods based on children's trust and responsibility. Involved in the Resistance against the Nazis, he made the Petit-Collège a place of welcome and transit for Resistance fighters and Jews. In February 1943, he welcomed three Jewish children to the school. After a complaint, the Gestapo invaded the school on January 15, 1944. The three children and Father Jacques were arrested. The children died in Auschwitz. Father Jacques was deported to Mauthausen-Gusen in Austria. When the Americans liberated the camp, he was elected as a representative of the International Committee of Deportees. Exhausted, he died on June 2, 1945. He is one of the Righteous of Nations and his cause of beatification has been introduced.

<https://jacquesdejesus.com/>



Interreligious meeting in Mazille Carmel (France)



On Sunday, June 6, at the Carmel of Peace (Mazille, France), Buddhists, Jews, Christians of various denominations, Muslims and non-believers met to reflect on the theme of forgiveness. Because of health measures, the assembly had to be significantly reduced. The topic of this year's meeting, forgiveness, was born in 2018 after the various terrorist attacks that have marked France in recent years.

The Carmel of Our Lady of Peace, inaugurated in 1971, is the work of the Catalan architect José Luis Sert (1902-1983), a disciple of Le Corbusier. José Luis Sert was also the architect of the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence and the Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona.

The first interreligious meeting at Carmel in Mazille was held in 2006. It was born from the desire of the Diocese of Autun to engage in this journey of dialogue according to the example of the Assisi meetings. The first meeting began with a time of prayer, at the same time but in different places, and was followed by an exchange of what is prayer. Already engaged in ecumenical dialogue, the Carmel of Peace immediately became the natural place for these interreligious encounters. The nuns are fully committed to it.

This agreement of the Mazille Carmelites finds its source in prayer, especially in the Liturgy of the Hours: "The Liturgy must be a school of peace, because it is a school of authenticity of life. It only makes sense in relation to daily life, otherwise there is no reason to gather so many times during the day to pray. The Liturgy is a necessity, a spur, otherwise it is a sleeping pill! At the heart of the Liturgy is a Word, that of Christ who killed hatred and conquered peace."

You can see a short presentation video here:

<https://vodeus.tv/video/le-carmel-de-la-paix-1531>



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