



OCD

COMMUNICATIONES



Message of Father General, Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD.

WITH NICARAGUA



The Discalced Carmel holds and embraces the Church and the Nicaraguan people. Today we are all for Nicaragua. The Teresian Carmel wishes to express its full solidarity with the Nicaraguan Church, which suffers because of its fidelity to the Gospel and the defense of the dignity and freedom of every human being. I would like to ask the whole Order to pray together, to be «a merciful resistance» and for perseverance.

Spirituality and prayer in Carmel are always a source of truth and courage to be with the Church, with those who suffer, and with the poor. In Nicaragua, we have a parish, a monastery of Discalced Carmelite nuns and Secular Carmelites. They are presences, like so many others in Nicaragua, who have as their sole interest that of living and proclaiming the Gospel by their life and care for the dignity of every human being and their freedom, with prayer and without cost. With the Discalced Carmelite Friars, Nuns, and Secular Carmelites we light our lamps asking for light, wisdom, humility and listening, for those who have the authority to serve defending freedom and truth.

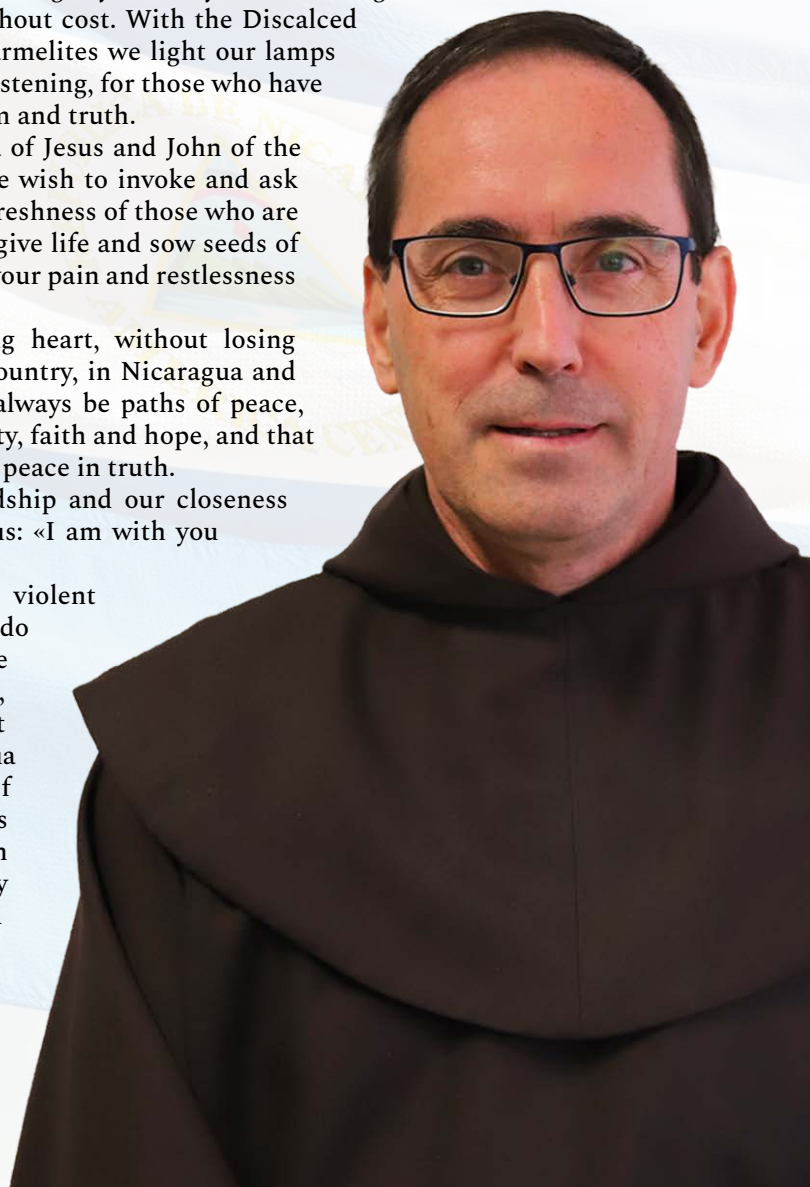
Dear Church of Nicaragua, with Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross, with all the Saints of Carmel, we wish to invoke and ask for all of you the humble boldness and freshness of those who are in the middle of the people in order to give life and sow seeds of fraternity and reconciliation. We make your pain and restlessness our own.

Let us pray insistently, without losing heart, without losing our heads, that in every city, in every country, in Nicaragua and throughout Latin America, there may always be paths of peace, dialogue, respect, coexistence in diversity, faith and hope, and that the Gospel may continue to be a seed of peace in truth.

We express to you our fraternal friendship and our closeness in prayer, trusting in the words of Jesus: «I am with you always, to the end».

We learned with great sorrow of the violent arrest by the police of Msgr. Rolando Álvarez Lagos, bishop of the diocese of Matagalpa. As Teresian Carmelites, «children of the Church», we feel great sadness to see the people of Nicaragua deprived of another faithful servant of the Gospel. I invite you to pray for this bishop, a defender of human dignity in the name of Christ, so that his integrity may be respected and he will be released immediately.

Fr Miguel Márquez Calle, ocd
General
Rome, 19th of August 2022



AVILA: THE HOLY SEE GRANTS THE TITLE OF MINOR BASILICA TO THE CHURCH OF LA SANTA, BIRTHPLACE OF SAINT TERESA OF JESUS.



Following the formal request submitted to the Vatican by the Bishop of Avila, Monsignor Gil Tamayo, supported by the Carmelite Order, the Nuncio of His Holiness in Spain sent to Monsignor Gil Tamayo on July 13 the decree conferring the title of Minor Basilica «to the church of the monastery of St. Teresa of Jesus, built on the birthplace of the Saint of Ávila.» The Apostolic Nuncio in his letter describes this place as «important for the diocese of Ávila and for the universal Church». On Saturday, August 27 at 8 pm, Bishop Gil Tamayo presided over the religious celebration in which the church of La Santa became a Minor Basilica. It is a unique moment for the Order of Discalced Carmelites, for the Diocese of Ávila, for all those who love Saint Teresa of Jesus, and an authentic gift in this Jubilee Year in which we celebrate the fourth centenary of her canonization.



CITeS: First International Youth Meeting on Mysticism and Humanism



The first international Youth meeting on Mysticism and Humanism, “The challenge of interiority” was held at CITeS from July 17 to 24.

Five themes were discussed in the first five days of the Meeting: “The labyrinth: the challenge of interiority”, with Josep Otón, “The freedom to be oneself”, with Mario Piera Gomar, “Jesus, the mysticism that humanizes”, with Francisco Javier Sancho Fermín, “I am I and my relationships, and without them I am lost”, with María Ángeles Almacellas, and “Pilgrims of life”, with the Father Miguel Márquez Calle, General of the Discalced Carmelites. After each conference, a series of activities were proposed to the young people: the creation of labyrinths, a group reflection workshop, a moment of personal reflection and silence and listening to different life testimonies.

The program of the meeting also included two cultural activities. The first, on the afternoon of Thursday the 21st, was dedicated to a Teresian visit to the city of Ávila. The second was a pilgrimage to Alba de Tormes, where the tomb of Teresa of Avila is located, on Saturday the 23rd.



Vietnam: blessing of the first church of the Carmelites



July 13, 2022 was a day of great joy for the Discalced Carmelite Friars in Vietnam: the monastery was blessed and the altar of the first chapel of the Order in Vietnam was consecrated.

From the beginning, the history of the Carmelite friars in Vietnam has been a history of ups and downs and continuous challenges, even today. In 1961, the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Saigon celebrated its centenary. It was an opportunity for some young Vietnamese to discover the Order of Discalced Carmelites. They were sent to the Carmelite monastery of Montpellier, in the province of Avignon-Aquitaine (France) for formation. They made their solemn vows in 1968 and were ordained priests on the 6th of August 1971 in the Carmelite monastery in Saigon (Vietnam). The ecclesial and social crisis of post-May 1968 and the Vietnam War caused the end of the presence of the Friars in Vietnam.

On June 19, 1998, the Superior General, Father Camilo Maccise, and Father Charles Serrao, after a visit to Vietnam, decided to send new vocations to the Philippines for formation. To prepare for the foundation of the first community of friars in Vietnam, in 2002 the center of the Order purchased, with the help of the Discalced Carmelite nuns, a house in Cao Thai, large enough for four or five people and close to the local parish. The first Vietnamese friars returned to Vietnam on June 12, 2011. In December 2011, Cardinal Gioan Baotixita Phạm Minh Mãn, of the Archdiocese of Saigon, authorized the installation of a new community in his diocese. Since the house had deteriorated and had become cramped, it was decided to rebuild the monastery.

On July 13, 2022, in the presence of Father Provincial Dan Lim, confreres and a large assembly, Msgr. Joseph Nguyen Nang proceeded with dedicating and blessing the altar of the chapel of the Discalced Carmelites. With hearts full of gratitude and remembrance, all the Vietnamese friars sang and praised the name of the Lord God. May the Lord continue to pour out his blessings on the Church and Carmel of Vietnam.

Congo: Session of formation and preparation for solemn vows for the Discalced Carmelite Friars of Africa and Madagascar

On July 4, 2022, 19 simply professed friars met at the "THERESIANUM" spirituality center in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo). They came from the Commissariat of Congo, the Commissariat of Madagascar, the Provincial Delegation of Cameroon, the Delegation of Central Africa, the Delegation of West Africa (Ivory Coast-Togo-Burkina Faso) and the Regional Vicariate of Burundi-Rwanda. Until the end of September, they will live together for three months of formation, fraternal life and sharing of experiences. To help the friars in this period of preparation for solemn vows, 13 Discalced Carmelites will take turns to carry out weekly lessons on the theology of consecrated life and vows in the African context, without forgetting the issues related to the management of goods. As for the Carmelite dimension, the life, the main works and doctrinal syntheses of our Holy Ancestors are planned, together with the *Rule*, the *Constitutions* and the *Norms*. With this session, the French-speaking Conference of Africa and Madagascar wishes to complete the formation in the charism of those being trained and to prepare them for Solemn Profession. Emphasis will be placed on human, religious and spiritual preparation, to help each candidate mature the commitment they are about to make.



Togo: Priestly ordinations of Brothers Bruno and Emmanuel-Marie in Lomé



Brothers Bruno de Jésus (Adje K. Messan) and Emmanuel-Marie de la Croix (K. Dogbevi) were ordained priests by Msgr. Nicodème A. Barriga-Benissan, Metropolitan Archbishop of Lomé (Togo), on Saturday, August 6, 2022 in Adamavo, in the parish of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face. With them were ordained another 9 deacons from different religious congregations. They prepared for this ordination with a spiritual retreat preached

by Br Bernard Halla, OCD, on the theme: «Intimacy with Christ, foundation of a successful priesthood».

May the Lord bless and make fruitful the priestly ministry of our two confreres. May God bless and fill Carmel with holy vocations. We express our warmest congratulations to our confreres Bruno de Jésus, Emmanuel-Marie de la Croix, to the Provincial Delegation of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross and to the Iberian Province!



Senegal: 20 years of presence of the Discalced Carmelites

The Discalced Carmelites of Senegal celebrated the 20th anniversary of their presence in Senegal on Sunday, July 17, on the occasion of the annual pilgrimage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel to the Carmelite Nuns of Sébikotane. About 600 people came from the different parishes of Dakar but also from other regions of Senegal. After a conference by Fr Marie-Laurent on the history of the Discalced Carmelites and their foundation in Senegal, as well as on their vocation, a solemn Mass was celebrated by Mgr. Martin Boucar Tine, the current bishop of Kaolack, in whose diocese we are established.

After lunch, a time of Eucharistic adoration in the chapel of the Carmelite Nuns was followed by solemn vespers, during which about fifty people received the scapular. The day ended with the presentation of the Carmelite Family in Senegal: the Discalced Carmelite Nuns present since 1950, the Teresian Missionary Carmelite Sisters present since 1984, the Discalced Carmelite Friars who arrived in 2002, the OCDS, the *Friends of Carmel* Association, *The Theresian youth* group, aspirants, etc. Let us give thanks for this magnificent day that marks a stage in the planting of Carmel in Senegal.



Burundi: 2nd Youth Festival

Saturday, August 21, 2022, at the *Mary Queen of Carmel* Spiritual Center in Gitega, the 2nd Youth Festival was held on the topic “Looking to the future. Empathy and the will to reconcile”. This theme concluded a year of community apostolate marked by three weekends of human and spiritual formation of young people. The title of the festival reflected the main attitudes deriving from this formation: to translate into a worldview and actions the condition of “a pure generation” after the atrocities and divisions that have sown death and resentment in Burundi’s tumultuous past; to bear witness to unity, with eyes fixed on the example of witnesses, in this case the unity of the 44 martyrs of the Buta seminary (30 April 1997); to be sensitive and cultivate non-violent communication.

The preparation of the various performances was left to young people. In a rich and diverse way, they showed their talent by wonderfully embodying this topic in singing, dancing, theatre. with great creativity. In this initiative 4 dimensions converged: the artistic deployment, the spiritual impregnation, the relational capacity that penetrates through to following generations, the effectiveness of a work carried out in a team according to precise objectives.





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