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OCD

COMMUNICATIONES





England: Canonical establishment of the OCDS Community of Blessed Marie Eugene

The Blessed Marie Eugene OCDS community, born 6 years ago at Boars Hill, Oxford, England, when the St Elijah community of the same place had grown too large and five members had felt ready and inspired to leave to form a new community, was officially Canonically established on 4 March 2023. The ceremony was celebrated by Fr Matthew Blake OCD Provincial Delegate to the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order and concelebrated by several Friars from the Boars Hill community and attended by our National President Annette Goulden, our Regional representative Cyprian Blamires, and remotely online. Joyful celebrations and lunch followed this very special event with a walk to the Priory's gate to symbolise a new path for our community. Our bags are packed!

And two weeks later, on Laetere Sunday, Rt. Rev. Philip Egan Bishop of Portsmouth, came to visit our leader's parish of the St John the Evangelist in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and was surprised to be presented with a copy of the certificate with his own name on it and signed on 25 December 2022 by our Superior General, Fr. Miguel Marquez, OCD and Fr Ramiro Casale, OCD, General Delegate of the OCDS.



Filippines: canonical establishment of the OCDS Community of St Joseph and St John of the Cross

On Sunday, March 19, 2023, the Provincial Delegate of the OCDS, Father Alex Collera OCD, presided over the Eucharistic celebration of the canonical erection of the Community of St. Joseph and St. John of the Cross in the Carmelite Chapel of Upper Camaman-an (Oro City), with the participation of a large assembly.



Panama: the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebrates the OCDS Day

In an atmosphere of joyful fraternity, on March 23, we celebrated the Eucharist marking the Day for the Secular Carmel, on the occasion of their 429th anniversary. Fr. Victorino Bal, Assistant of the OCDS Communities in our country presided at the Eucharist, assisted by Fr. Javier, our parish priest.

At the end of the Mass, the Seculars received a special blessing from our two priests and were subsequently invited to enter the convent, where the friars had prepared a banquet for them.

Fr Victorino told us that fraternal sharing among all the branches of Carmel is vital, because it enables us to cultivate the joy and friendship that characterizes the Teresian charism, in order to share it then with others.

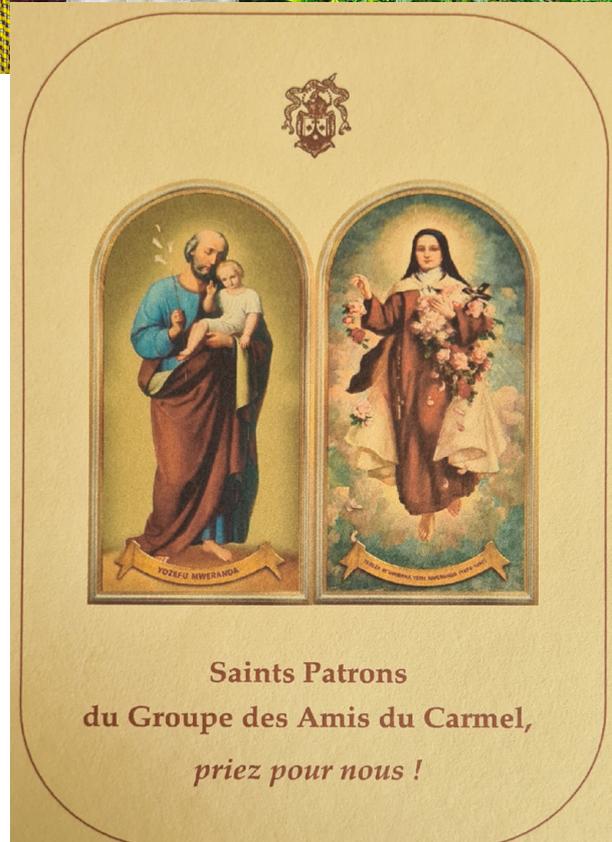


Burundi: Approval of the Statutes of the “Friends of Carmel”

On Sunday, March 19, 2023, the Statutes of the “Friends of Carmel” were approved for five years *Ad experimentum*. The group began on January 12, 2017 at the Carmelite Monastery of Bujumbura. On that same day their current residence was inaugurated.

Some of these Friends had begun to frequent the convent from the first days of its establishment in Bujumbura, attracted first by the availability of the sacrament of reconciliation, then by the morning Mass, whose schedule easily harmonized with that of work, and finally, by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every working day from Monday to Friday.

Starting from this pastoral attention to all of them, this group of faithful gradually found themselves in spontaneous friendship with the Carmelites to the point of actively sharing in the liturgy, to the point of contributing to it with song and the readings, especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Then, they showed solidarity with each other and with the Carmelites in different situations of life, to the point of recognizing each other as “Friends in Christ” according to the words of Saint Teresa of Jesus (cf. Life 16:7). After an informal process that lasted six years, they were encouraged to draw up statutes to constitute themselves as an Association of the Faithful. The Provincial asked the Regional Vicar to approve these statutes. They placed themselves under the co-patronage of Saints Joseph and Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. The aggregation of the first eighteen was marked with an act of commitment.





Peru: the parish of Saint John of the Cross in Lambramani takes part in the *Parade for Life and the Family*

On April 16, as a parish, we joyfully took part in the Parade for Life and the Family, an event organized by the Regional Coordination Committee for Life.

In the morning, the members of our parish prepared our float for the event. We then took part in the event with white clothes, balloons and posters that recalled the objective of the event. We must continue to bear witness to our commitment to the defence of Life from the moment of conception, including every human life, as well as to the nucleus of society which is the family.





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