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Taiwan-Singapore: *Solemn Profession and Diaconal Ordination*

The friars of the General Delegation Taiwan-Singapore had a double occasion to rejoice in the Solemn Profession and the Diaconal Ordination of three of their confreres — Brs. Benedict Mary, Reginald Marie, and Bartolo Maria. The Solemn Profession took place on 19th March 2023 while the Diaconal Ordination took place on 5th May 2023.

Both celebrations took place at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul in the Archdiocese of Singapore. At the ordination mass, the friars were blessed with the presence of General Definitor Fr Christianus Surinono OCD. The Archbishop of Singapore Cardinal William Goh conferred the diaconal ordination. The joy of the friars were shared with the people of God as all were invited to join in a celebratory reception after the masses.



Mexico: meeting between the Secular Order and the Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In April, the Secular Order and the Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel met in the La Sabatina parish in Mexico City. Members of communities and confraternities from all over the country were present. After a solemn Eucharistic celebration, the participants were able to share fraternally the beauty of their vocation in Carmel.

The Secular Order has recently elected its Provincial Council which, in communion with all communities, seeks to promote unity and dialogue. For their part, the Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel have demonstrated their fidelity to the devotion and service of the Virgin. In Mexico there is a large number of Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, some of which are very old and have their own statutes. There is a close collaboration between the Secular Order and the Confraternities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Each recognizes the unique and special vocation of the other. All feel brothers and sisters, all members of Carmel under the protection of the Virgin Mary and very proud to be at her service.

The meeting was marked by several very special moments, full of joy and reflection. Discussed were identity, membership of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, the current reality and the challenges of the communities. The need to promote vocations and synodality was emphasized.



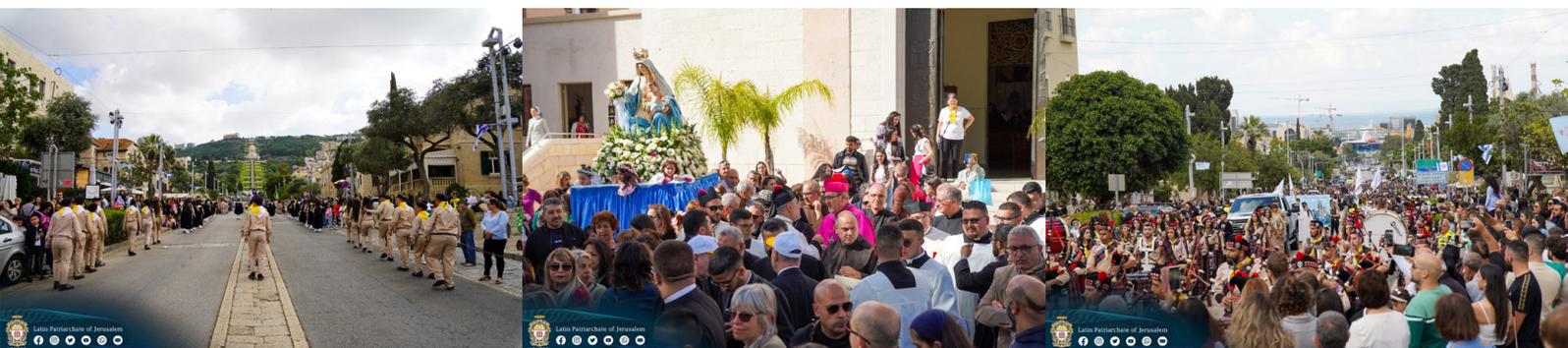
Haifa: Procession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



On April 30, 2023, the traditional procession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, known as *Taalat al-Adra* (the Ascent of the Virgin), took place in the city of Haifa (Israel). Every year, a 900 kg statue, mounted for procession on a car without engine, is drawn by men and women from St Joseph's Carmelite parish church up the side of Mt Carmel to the Stella Maris Carmelite monastery on top. This tradition dates back to the First World War: when Turkish soldiers gave the Carmelite Fathers three hours to evacuate the Stella Maris monastery on the top of Mount Carmel. They left with only a few archival documents and the statue of Our Lady. At the end of the war, on April 27, 1919, the statue was returned to the monastery in procession, to thank the Virgin Mary for protecting the city during the war.

This year, after the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, about 3,000 people from Palestine and Israel took part in the procession. In a festive atmosphere, the faithful walked the three kilometres from the parish, then the 130 metres of rather steep ascent, singing psalms and hymns in honour of the Virgin Mary. Several leaders of various Churches were present, including the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa. In front of the Stella Maris Monastery, the Patriarch presided over the final prayers. He stressed the need for vocations to consecrated life for the Church and asked the Virgin Mary to intercede so that the Lord protects all Christian families.

Photo credits: © Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem



Madagascar : A truly exceptional meeting



From Monday 17 April to Sunday 7 May 2023, the Lord gathered the Carmelite nuns of the Indian Ocean (Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion Island) and France, for a three-week formation meeting, in Itaosy, at the house of our Carmelite friars, who were gathered for a Chapter.

Each community was represented by one or more sisters. At the school of Our Mother St. Teresa, we studied in depth the different foundations and elements of our Carmelite

life. This meeting was very rich for all of us and enabled us to reassess our lives in depth.

The great novelty of this meeting was that the speakers were French Carmelite nuns (Sister Élisabeth of the Carmel of Surieu and Sister Sabine-Marie of the Carmel of Angers), and this crowned the teaching from our Carmelite Friars. Let us thank the Lord for what we have shared together under His gaze, encouraging each other to live our Carmelite life better.



Cuba: a visit to the Secular Carmel and the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



The Secular Carmel has a long history in Cuba. The communities of the cities of Havana and Matanzas continue to enrich their respective dioceses with their lives of prayer and service. We had the opportunity to meet María Marta of the Virgen of Carmel. In the photo, we see her showing her certificate of profession, made in Havana on July 15, 1955. She has been a secular for almost 70 years and continues her life of prayer and service with great generosity and joy.

In the city of Santa Clara there is a Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which meets in the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, served by Salesian Priests. All feel they are members of the Carmelite Order and promote devotion to the Virgin Mary through their various apostolates. Rejoicing in their vocation, they promote vocations so that others too can experience the joy of feeling part of the Order of Our Lady. We ask Our Lady of Mount Carmel to protect all her sons and daughters.



Burkina Faso: first Carmelite Day

The first Carmelite Day in Burkina Faso took place on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at the monastery of our O.Carm Friars, in Bobo-Dioulasso. Ninety-two people from the cities of Gourcy, Ouagadougou, Nouna, Dédougou and Bobo-Dioulasso took part in this Day. They belonged to the great family of Carmel: O.Carm., OCD, Carmelite Missionary Sisters, Sisters of Providence of la Pommeraye, Sisters of Saint Teresa of Avesnes, Teresian Sisters (Gourcy), Missionaries of the Immaculate (Sisters of Living Water), Secular Carmel, Carmelite Third Order and the Donum Dei Family. Sunday Mass was presided over by a new priest, Fr Joseph Bassié O. Carm. During the day there were lectures, meetings, exchanges on the topics presented, and the presentation of each community or institution of the great Carmelite family, with details on the founder, the charism, the genesis of their affiliation to the Order of Carmel and their mission. The day ended with a cultural and recreational evening enlivened by the choir of Notre Dame du Mont Carmel of Bobo and some performances offered by religious communities. This first edition has allowed us to set out together, as Pope Francis invites us, as the great Carmelite family present in Burkina Faso.





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