

Communicationes 321

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Presence in the mission in Odisha stretching back over 25 years

A series of activities, which began with a round of celebrations in each community on the feast day of the Patroness of the Vicariate, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, 1st October, 2016, in order to celebrate twenty-five years since the arrival of the first missionaries from the Province of Manjummel in Odisha, North-East India, the Vicariate of St. Thérèse, which was established there.



The slogan for the celebrations is as follows: “Always renewed in You”, which seeks to express the call to both individual and collective renewal in the Vicariate, to the radical values of the charism of the Teresian Carmel. Our Carmelite brothers in Odisha want to give thanks on this sublime occasion, anchored in their roots and at the same time, wishing to continue to bear much fruit, trusting in God’s help to build a future in hope with his blessing.

Among the many activities scheduled for this year, we highlight the spiritual retreats, the sessions of study on the Constitutions and the individual anniversary celebrations of the various religious.

The festivities have been scheduled with the intention of this joyful anniversary and will close with a celebration on the 1st October, 2017.

A Marian Congress in Fatima, Portugal



The Order of Carmelites and that of the Discalced Carmelites, prompted by the celebration of the first centenary of the apparitions in Fatima, have decided to call an International, Marian Congress as one family as an offering to the whole Church, in order to revitalise our Marian spirituality, since Carmel is all of Mary.

It was through her inspiration and protection that, in the XIIth century, the first hermit-friars came together on the

summit of Mount Carmel to foster their relationship with the living God. With great joy, our brothers of the Teresian Carmel invite us to this Congress, with the support of the Superior Generals of both Orders, which will take place from 15th - 17th September in Fatima, Portugal.

Further information with regard to the Congress can be found at: <http://www.congressomarianocarmelita.com>, in Portuguese, Italian, French, English and Spanish.

Holy Week in Egypt begins with the blood of martyrs

“We were all celebrating Palm Sunday in our Basilica of Santa Teresa parish in Shubra (Cairo) when the news was received of an attack on a Coptic church in the city of Tanta. We did not want to communicate this to the people so as not to provoke fear. This is painful news that increases the number of martyrs in heaven and decreases the number of apostles on earth. A bloodbath that after a little while was prolonged in another church in Alexandria. A total of more than forty dead.



A painful moment for Christians. We all ask ourselves: Why? How long? The Answer comes to us from the first martyr of Calvary, Jesus who gave his life for love and in love. Let us pray that the Father may forgive these people who know not what they do, and convert them to peace and love.

We pray for all Christians and for all peacemakers that with their blood they may render fertile the dry and arid land of the human heart. Carmel in Egypt is united to the sorrow and pain of our brothers and asks for prayers from Carmel throughout the world. In a special way, we thank Father General Saverio Cannistrà for his solidarity and closeness in this moment to his confreres in Egypt” (Abuna Patrick Sciadini, OCD General Delegate).



OCDS Provincial Chapter, Colombia

The 5th OCDS Provincial Chapter took place at Medellín in the Francis Palau retreat house of the Carmelite Missionary Sisters on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of March. Taking part in the event were delegates from the seven communities of the country (Medellín, Pereira, Villa de Leyva, Cali, Bogotá, Anzá and

Bucaramanga). Also present were the Discalced Carmelite friars, Fr Milton Moulthon and Fr Arcesio Escobar.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to elect the members making up the Provincial Council who will offer their services during the next triennium in the following offices:

President: Lucy del Carmen Quexada;
Formator: Esther Leonor Galvis;
Councillor for Spiritual life: Josefina Espitia;
Councillor for the Apostolate: Gabriela Marín;
Consejería de Vida Mariana: Francisco Neira;
Treasury Auxilliary: Rosario Serrano;
Secretary: Caroline Gebehart.

Also discussed in the meeting were the concerns raised by Fr General in his letter sent from Rome on the 27th of March 2016.