



## In Memoriam (Tomás Álvarez)

**O**n the morning of July, the 27th, Father Tomás Álvarez Fernández (Thomas of the Cross) died after a few days stay in hospital. He was born on the 17th of May 1923 in Acebedo, (León), and was a Discalced Carmelite friar since the 6th of August 1939, the day of his first profession. He was ordained a priest of Christ on the 23rd of June 1946. He was one of the greatest specialists of Teresian studies of recent decades. His life has been very fruitful, of intense study, teaching and research, but above all of living intensely the Teresian charism and fraternity, as the best service to the Order and to the Church.

He is a figure who overflowed the borders of Carmel, open to the broad horizons of the Church and culture. His broad and intense career made of him an obligatory reference to Teresian studies and for the scholars of our present culture.

His life covered a wide space of time and geographical areas: Europe, America and, more specifically, Italy,

France, Germany, the United Kingdom, thanks to his taking part in congresses and the translation of his writings into the principal modern languages. Among these translations stands out the critical edition of the work of St Teresa of Jesus into French and Italian. Likewise, the quite recent translation of the Saint Teresa Dictionary, published by the Burgos Mount Carmel publishing house and translated by Ed. Du Cerf and Edizioni OCD. This immense work was prepared at the beginning in Rome (1948-1978) and then in Burgos (1979-2018). His studies at the Angelicum brought him in touch with Karol Wojtila, whose doctoral thesis on St John of the Cross was first published, thanks to him, in the Burgos Monte Carmel magazine in 1948.

But his studies were focussed for many years at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology of the Carmelites in Rome (the Teresianum). This was the great platform for his profound teaching. It was from here he di-

rected the Positio for St Teresa's doctorate, proclaimed by Paul VI in 1970, and accomplished a theological reading of Teresian studies in the light of the Second Vatican Council, which provided nourishment for following generations.

Besides his great contributions from the Teresianum in Rome, there was his restoration and critical edition of St Teresa's manuscripts: *The Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle*. There followed after, in Burgos, the facsimile edition of the rest of Teresa's works, together with a thorough historical and critical system.

In the year of the V Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa (2015) he published a commentary on each one of her works and accomplished an exhaustive investigation of her letters

and all of her autograph manuscripts, which are preserved in the Escorial (more than 1,000 pages). Personally, I have always felt great admiration for Father Tomás. As librarian of the Teresianum since 2011, I have had the honour of making known his immense work to the students and researchers. I was fortunate to be like the witness and spokesman of his mastery in the field of letters, a quality so praised by Mother Teresa, which he cultivated with such dedication and such love. He mentioned this a few days before becoming ill and he replied to me, humbly and wisely, that it was all the work of the Lord and of his great love for Teresa of Jesus.

*Ciro García, ocd (Librarian of the Teresianum, Rome)*

## Formation course for the Italian nuns in Nënshat, Albania

Young nuns from the Italian "Mater Carmeli" Federation of monasteries began a meeting on June 9th in the spirituality house of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers in Nënshat, Albania. Professed nuns together with those under formation numbered 23 religious, who were also able to share some moments with the community of Discalced Carmelite nuns in

the monastery near the spirituality house / community of the friars.

The topic of formation was primarily Carmelite and centered on Father Marcell, Hungarian Discalced Carmelite. It was presented by a brother of the same nationality, Father Rafael Bakos, who highlighted the characteristics of the witness of God founded on the experience transmit-

ted by Father Marcell, which has a particular Marian accent.

The second part of the meeting was of a psychological nature, thanks to conferences given by Ursuline sister Bruna Zaltron. It dealt with wounds of the personality, crises, and strategies to manage disenchantments or fraternal life, among other subjects. There was also time to visit with the Poor Clares in Scutari and see the “place of the memory,” a museum adjacent to the monastery that

memorializes the martyrdom of the Albanian Church at the hands of the communist regime.

The local prelate, Bishop Simon Kulli, presided over the closing Eucharist and thanked the nuns for their presence. The nuns returned to Italy full of happiness over the joyful fraternity shared among the religious of the different monasteries as well as with the Albanian Discalced Carmelite friars and nuns.

## Meeting in Brazil

Invited by the Latin American nuns, Fr General went to Brazil to have a meeting, from the 26th to the 29th July, with 160 Discalced Carmelite nuns and 20 friars from Latin America and the Caribbean. Accompanying Fr Saverio was his personal secretary, Fr Rafal Willkowski, who is also the secretary for the nuns. In an atmosphere of communion

and listening, Fr Saverio shared with the assembly his impressions of the Instruction *Cor Orans*, which was recently issued by CICLSAL, and he gave some lectures on the current experience of the Teresian charism. For his part, Fr Rafal gave practical suggestions of a juridical nature, necessary for the development of the contemplative life in monasteries, taking also into account *Cor Orans*.

## OCDS: admissions and promises in the Province of Lombardy

**T**he house of spirituality of the Discalced Carmelites of the Province of Lombardy in Cassano Valcuvia (Varese, Italy), hosted a beautiful event June 9th and 10th. It can be characterized as historic, being the first time that members from different OCDS communities met in one place to celebrate ceremonies of admittance or promises, temporary and definitive, in the Secular Order. The communities that met in Cassano hailed from Bologna, Concesa, Lodi, Monza, and Parma.

It was a festival for the entire province, and a moment of formation was not lacking; Father Giorgio Rossi, ocd, was in charge of it, and he helped the brothers and sisters in attendance to reflect on the meaning and value of the secular life in Carmel and in the Church. He called us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ, following the advice of Teresa of Jesus, in order that He may obtain for us the gift of having his own sentiments.

### Fr General's Agenda

**I**n the recent month of July, Fr Saverio Cannistrà ocd, Superior General, paid a fraternal visit to the friars and nuns in Hungary. Later on he took part in an international meeting in Brazil with the nuns of Latin America, as we have already informed you.

At the end of this month, it is planned to make a brief fraternal visit to Portugal and Spain. During this time he will take part in the European meeting of students in Fatima and afterwards he will go to Alba de

Tormes and Avila, where they will be celebrating the Teresian jubilee year. On his return to Rome he will preside at the ordinary meeting of the General Definitory.

At the end of September, God willing, he will travel to Mexico, to take part in a congress for the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Nuns' Federation in that country and, as we have already informed you, during October he will also take part in the Synod of Bishops.

## The Prado Museum in Madrid, Spain, issues a correction regarding Gracián

A few weeks ago, we read interesting news in the blog titled, “Teresa, de la rueca a la pluma” (Teresa: from the spinning wheel to the pen), written by María José Pérez, Discalced Carmelite from Puçol, Valencia (Spain):

“Last June 6th, on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Father Gracián, we once again shared on our social networks an entry in this blog in which we questioned, in a rational way, the commentary of the Prado Museum regarding one of his works. We refer to the October 2016 publication titled, ‘Jerome Gracián in the Prado Museum?’

“We understood that one of the figures in the painting by Benito Mercadé y Fábregas, for historical reasons, could not be Father Jerome Gracián, as stated in the information about the work of art provided in the Museum’s website, but instead was Father Ángel de Salazar. To our sur-

prise, early the next day we received a tweet from the national gallery announcing the correction:

“Good morning. Thank you very much for the post. We have modified the description of the work of art. Once updated, the text will read as follows: “Saint Teresa of Jesus (1515-1582) gives an account of her reform to Father Ángel de Salazar (c. 1518 – c. 1596), provincial of the Order of Carmel.

‘—Prado Museum (@museodelprado) June 7, 2018’

“We are very happy that our blog influences such a prestigious institution, and we hold that we are happy to have contributed to the improvement of the information that is offered on its magnificent website.”

The link to the original source:

<https://delaruecaalapluma.wordpress.com/2018/06/20/el-museo-de-prado-rectifica-sobre-gracian/>