



Conference on Father Francisco Palau

The congregations of the Carmelite Missionaries and the Teresian Carmelite Missionaries, together with the Pontifical Faculty and the Pontifical Institute of Spirituality Teresianum in Rome, organized a conference on Father Francisco Palau, ocd. It took place from November 26th to 28th, 2018, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his beatification by Saint John Paul II, which occurred in 2018. Historical and biographical topics about Blessed Francisco Palau were

presented, as well as his manner of living out the Teresian Carmelite charism in his situation of excommunication and diverse other topics having to do with his spirituality and mystico-theological legacy to the charismatic heritage of the Church and Carmel.

The Congress concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving which also implored the prompt canonization of our brother Father Francisco of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Palau y Quer), Discalced Carmelite.

Carmel: 400 years in Bologna

A ceremony began the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the monastery of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Bologna, the Father Provincial of the Discalced Carmelites of Lombardy presiding.

Thanking God for the 400 years of presence of the feminine branch of Carmel in that city, our sisters also invite us to thank all those who, dur-

ing that long period of time, have helped and given support to the community. In 1617, Cardinal Ludovisi, wishing to welcome a community of Carmelites in his diocese, said: "This is a very holy undertaking, and with time it will be of great aid to our city," thereby voicing the desire of all the citizens to provide assistance for a foundation that they foresaw would give spiritual and temporal support to Bologna.

We unite ourselves to our sisters' prayers and ask for the accomplishment of their desire to *advance*

always from good to better, faithful to the charism inherited from Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus.

The Soso Carmel in the state of Jharkhand, India celebrated its 50 years of foundation

On 14 november 2018, a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the bishop of Gumla and bishop of Simdega marked the solemn occasion. Fr. Johannes Gorantla the Definitor for South Asia, fr. Sebastian the provincial of Malabar, several Carmelite fathers and brothers were present. The presence of 23 of our sisters

who gathered for the south east association general assembly added great joy to the celebration. On this auspicious occasion two temporarily professed sisters : Srs. Neelima and Maxima pronounced their solemn vows in the presence of a big crowd of faithful. Soso Carmel has 17 sisters and two candidates at present.

Meeting of the Latin American Association of Carmelites

The 4th conference organized by the Latin American Association of Carmelites (ALACAR) was celebrated in Santo Domingo from November 6th through 11th. The Fathers General of Carmel, Saverio Cannistrà, OCD, and Fernando Millán, O.Carm., were present. The theme chosen to inspire the reflections was: "Yesterday's martyrs for today's Latin American Carmel: Archbishop Romero, Edith Stein, and Titus Brandsma." Approximately 120 participants –

laity and religious, male and female – from almost all Latin American countries, met in the Santa María of Altagracia Retreat House to allow themselves to be enlightened by the lives, witnesses, and messages of these three persons, whose martyrial offerings surpasses the frontiers of space and time.

The Carmelite Missionary, Sandra Henríquez, opened the conference with the topic, "Edith Stein, by the sign of the Cross: The Christian martyrdom of a daughter of Israel."

Father Saverio Cannistrà followed with a presentation titled, “The participation in the love of Christ in the martyrdom of Edith Stein.” The Salvadoran Carmelite bishop, Oswaldo Escobar, prelate of the diocese of Chalatenango, presented the figure of Archbishop Romero, the Saint of the poor. And lastly, Father Fernando Millán presented the figure of Blessed Titus Brandsma with the

topic, “Sanctity from the starting point of humanity.”

These have been providential days to re-create the fraternity of Carmel at the same moment in which we renew our commitment to be witnesses of Jesus who suffers in the dehumanization of those who are persecuted and marginalized, but who triumphs at the same time by the surrender of our martyrs.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine: a Minor Basilica

Last 14 December 2018, Solemnity of our Holy Father St. John of the Cross, Most Rev. Honesto F. Ongtioco, D. D., Bishop of Cubao, informed Fr. Joey Maborang, OCD, Rector & Parish Priest of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Quezon City of the approval of the petition to elevate the National Shrine to the rank of Minor Basilica. The Apostolic Nunciature in Manila received the decree of the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and transmitted it to Bishop Ongtioco. Earlier, Bishop Ongtioco encouraged the Friars to initiate the said peti-

tion. After obtaining the approval of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in July 2018, the bishop forwarded the petition to the Holy See last August 2018. At the plenary meeting of the CBCP in 2015, Bishop Ongtioco endorsed the petition to declare the church a National Shrine. The following year, the Apostolic Penitentiary granted a Spiritual Bond of Affinity between the National Shrine and the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. This privilege grants special indulgences to the pilgrims and visitors of the Shrine on solemnities and feasts of Our Lady.