

Communicationes 319

02.2017

Cause for canonization of Sister Lucy of Fatima

On the coming 13th of February, the diocese of Coimbra in Portugal has concluded the diocesan section of the process for canonization of Sister Lucy Dos Santos, a Discalced Carmelite nun and one of the three Fatima visionaries. The Cause will now begin to be analyzed in the Vatican by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.



For the occasion, after the ceremony of closing takes place, a thanksgiving Mass it was celebrated for all those in the Coimbra Carmel. Following this, it was a concert in the city Cathedral.

Sister Lucy was a Discalced Carmelite religious for 57 years and, after her death in 2005, was buried in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in the Fatima Sanctuary.



Good bye to Mons. Luna, a Discalced Carmelite and an Ecuadorian Bishop

At the age of 94 years, Mons. Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, Discalced Carmelite and Archbishop Emeritus of Cuenca, died last February the 7th in Quito, Ecuador.

Mons. Luna was born on the 15th of December, 1923, into a well-to-do family from Quito. He became acquainted with Carmel in a visit he made to the Sucumbios mission with some friends, three of whom entered the Order with him, out of admiration for the friars and more specifically, using their own words, attracted by “their life, their happiness, their training, what they were like”.

As it turned out, he was the only one to persevere and was sent to study in Spain. At that time he became the first Ecuadorian to take the Carmelite habit, which happened at Burgo de Osma on the 3rd of August, 1939. He was ordained priest on the 25th of July, 1946, in the Carthusian Charterhouse in Miraflores, Burgos. Once ordained priest, he went back almost immediately to Quito and was appointed Pastor of the church of Saint Therese, where for 22 years, he worked tirelessly up until 1968 as Pastor, becoming the “fashionable” priest, there being no baptism, confession or marriage that he did not do. He had a certain charism for inspiring confidence, he became advisor to numerous well-known political people and those of the social world in the Capital. He was also professor in the Catholic University and in 1972 was appointed a member of the

Ecuadorian Academy of Language. From 1970 to 1973 he was Definitor General of the Order. In 1977 he was named Auxiliary Bishop of Quito. But this great Bishop, great shepherd, great friend of the poor and country folk was to emerge as Archbishop of Cuenca in 1981. He was received with suspicion and distrust by the clergy in Cuenca, thinking him as rather elitist because of his origin and his term as Auxiliary of Quito. Accompanied by his rural Pastoral Vicar, Fr Hernán Rodas, he was to visit even the remotest corner of the diocese. In doing this he found conversion. The very spirit he had shown in Quito for receiving political personages, aristocratic and cultural people . . . was to become in harmony with the country folk: “My greatest pleasure is to be understood by the country people, we get on so well together”.

In this way, he became known as “the Bishop of the poor” and “the Bishop who makes no distinction” or by his own fellow Bishops, who acknowledged him as “the prophet of Ecuador!” His death has caused an enormous impact on the Ecuadorian Church and society, to the extent that President Correa himself publically lamented his death and gave the funeral elegy for Mons. Luna.

Together with Mons. Proaño, dead now for nearly 30 years and our Mons Gonzalo, who was recently taken from us, he formed the most notable group of Bishops involved in leading the reform that followed Vatican II, as well as the meetings of the Latin-American and Caribbean Bishops celebrated in Medellin and Puebla.

May our brother rest in peace.



The Teresianum periodical is online

The website of the Teresianum now offers a new tool developed under the supervision of the director of its periodical, *Teresianum*, Father Christof Betschart, ocd. It allows the user to access and consult all the articles published in the periodical since its first

edition in 1947 until 2014.

Specifically, it is a search engine that can be found on <http://www.teresianum.net/rivista> and is available in Italian, Spanish, English, French, and German.

Once the desired title is found, a link -“attiva il link”- will be found on its index card. The link leads to the scanned article.

To research articles published in the periodical from 2014 forward, the following link may be used to access a PDF version of each number: <http://www.teresianum.net/rivista/ultimo-numero/>.

A video showing an example of a search using the new tool can be seen on <https://youtu.be/bWpwKLSmglg> (courtesy of the YouTube channel of the blog <https://delaruecaalapluma.wordpress.com>).

First Priestly Ordinations from North East India for the Regional Vicariate of West Bengal

January 2017 marks the most blessed month of the Vicariate of the Regional Vicariate of West Bengal, North East India of the Discalced Carmelites of the South Kerala Province.

God granted us the first four OCD Priests from North India for our Mission Vicariate. They are Fr. Joel Sarkar OCD, Fr. Arvind Tigga OCD, Fr. Anil Tirkey OCD and Fr. Anil Kerketta OCD.

The very First Priestly Ordination was of Deacon Joel Sarkar, took place at our Mission Centre at Dhugguri, north of West Bengal through the hands of Bishop Clement Tirkey of Jalpaiguri Diocese on 20th January 2017. He is from a West Bengal Family speaking Bengali language. We do remember Rabindra Nath Tagore, the great mystic poet of India and Nobel Laureate and Mother Teresa of Calcutta who is called the "Saint of the Gutters" who lived in this State. Let us thank the Lord for this historical moment that lets us grow on a firm foundation. He hails from the Diocese of Raiganj in West Bengal.

Deacons Arvind Tigga OCD and Anil Kerketta OCD were Ordained at Saunamara Parish in the Rourkela Diocese, Odisha on 23rd January 2017 through the hands of Bishop Kishor Kumar Kujur. Fr. Arvind hails from Jaspur Diocese of Chattisgarh State. Fr. Anil Kerketta is from Rourkela Diocese, Odisha State. The fourth Priestly Ordination was of Deacon Anil Tirkey at Gaibira Parish in the Rourkela Diocese on 25th January 2017. These three Priests are from Adibasi People and speak Oram language. Yes, the Lord calls "the Shepherds after His own heart" for His people from all the peoples and nations. By the grace of God, we will have Priestly Ordinations every year from East and North East India for the growth of the Church and Our Holy Order in West Bengal and North Eastern States of India. Our Order is new to most of these States of India.

The Priestly Ordination ceremony in Odisha State is impressive. It is a grand feast of the people of the area. People both Christians and non-Christians in big number take part in it. It is like a big marriage celebration. The Deacon walks over the baskets supported by his parents or most dear ones before the ceremony of Ordination to the altar and handed over to the Bishop. It is to mean, he is taken from the ordinary society for a radically new life as minister of the Church for all. Thus, they show the loftiness and sanctity of Priestly life. After the Holy Mass, two elderly women bring him to the stage and put the priest on the lap and others wash his hands, legs, put oil on his head, comb his hair, and beautify his head. It is to mean that here after the priest is a part of all the people, loved and cared by them. What a wonder blessing of the Priest! Then the priest is crowned as a king or honoured like a leader of the people. It impresses especially the minds and hearts of the young and children and can inspire them to aspire for priesthood. People, in great numbers, dance together with banging instruments before, during and after the Mass. The Ordinations in Odisha started by 7.30 in the morning and got over by 12.30 noon. After the meals, again they continued with felicitations and dancing which would last until night. The priest is carried to his own village in his re-entry. The First Mass takes place in at a prepared place near his home, participated by the neighbouring villagers. They sing and dance for him. At a convenient time, he goes to bless the families of his village.

Rejoice with us and thank the Lord for "the beginning of this harvest" from the vocational seeds sown 13 years back and the solid and native growth of our Mission.



Yes, the Mission will grow from within to greater heights and at God's time will become an independent Province of our Holy Order.

The Calcutta Mission was opened on 6th June 1998 in the city where Mother Teresa of Calcutta worked for the poorest of the poor. It was Fr. Bernadine M. Louis OCD, then Provincial who put up the first Aspirants' House (Seminary) Flos Carmeli Ashram at Lakurdi, Burdwan in the Asansol Diocese in 2003. We started the first batch of seminarians in a tent made of haystack. The first Priestly Ordinations from our mission have taken place after 13 long years of formation both in the Mission and Kerala. The number of Ordinations in India is on the increase in spite of all the cultural and adverse conditions of our Country. We have around 80 brothers in different stages of formation only for our Mission Vicariate from East and North East Indian States.

Our Mission Centre at Kumari, Arunachal Pradesh, which was taken up from the Diocese of Miao, a border State of India to China in 2009 got finally a beautiful Parish Church at the hard work of Fr. Jaison Kaimathuruthy, OCD, in charge of Kumari Centre. The Church was blessed on 28th January 2017 by Bishop George Palliparambil of the Diocese, inaugurated by Fr. Benjamine Elias our Provincial and dedicated to the Public by the Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of thousands of people. It was a mega celebration day with the participation of Priests, Religious, People Catholics and non-Catholics. The church is dedicated to our Lady of Mount Carmel.



Visits by the General Delegate for the OCDS

During the months of January and February, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, ocd, the Father General's delegate for Secular Carmelite communities, made two important visits to OCDS communities.

The first was in Croatia from January 27th to 30th of this year at the invitation of Father Sreko Rimac, ocd,

Provincial. He was accompanied by Father Dario Tokic, ocd.

Together, they visited the OCDS communities in Zagreb, Split and Krk, and also visited the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Brezovica.

Meetings with the Discalced Carmelite students and the assistants of the various communities were particularly important. Father General's Delegate talked about the current situation of the OCDS in the world, its needs, and the importance of accompanying the communities and collaborating with them within the apostolic mission of the friars.

There are two formed communities in Croatia: Sombor y Zagreb-Remete, although the latter was divided in two last year due to its large number of members. Two other communities are in formation: Split and Krk. In Sofia, Bulgaria, there is another community founded in the late 60s around the nuns' presence that is dependent on the Province. Within the harshness of the communist regime, they lived out their consecration in hiding. Thanks be to God, the community renewed normal activity from the year 2000 forward and currently has eight members.

Near Zagreb there was a flourishing community in Lasinja. The disasters of the 1990s war caused great damage, human and material, and dispersed the inhabitants of the area. May God grant that one day that fraternity will be recreated.

Afterward, between February 11 and 12, Father Alzinir Debastiani visited the OCDS communities in Sardinia. These belong to the Province of Central Italy. On Saturday the 11th, representatives of the communities of that city, Ozieri, and Bosa, met in the Discalced Carmelite monastery of Nuoro. The visit with the communities of Cagliari-Sant'Isidoro and Pula, as well as with some members of the new community that is forming in Cagliari, took place on Sunday.

There was time for sharing the activities of each community in a fraternal setting, reinforcing the bonds that unite all Sardinian Secular Carmelites in the selfsame vocation to the Teresian Carmel. God grant that new vocations come to the OCDS and to the friars and nuns of Sardinia.

The Carmelite nuns of Kananga-Malole, evacuated

For more than a year in the region of Kananga (Democratic Republic of the Congo) there have been clashes between members of the ethnic tribal majority and the central government of Kinshasa, resulting in the death of the local leader Kamuina Nsapu. Having been declared in rebellion, his militia continue to generate many problems affecting the citizens, despite the growing presence of the Congolese army.



In particular, they have chosen the Catholic Church as a target for their anger since it offered itself as a mediator for peace and for the rebels who, in mad rage, interpreted this gesture as helping the government.

So, last Saturday, February the 18th, they looted the Cristo Rey seminary and on the same day broke into the monastery of our nuns at Malole who, fortunately, did not suffer any harm.

However, to avoid greater evils, the Nuncio in the Congo decided that the nuns be transferred to the "Tabor" retreat centre in the centre of the city, where they will be safer in the hope of returning soon to their monastery.

Let us give our sisters and the Congolese people the support of our prayers.