

Communicationes 322

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New Cardinal in the Teresian Carmel

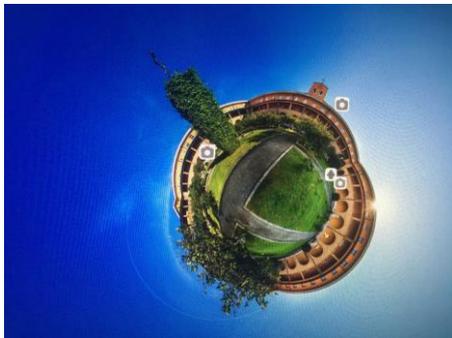


On the 21st of May last, during the message which accompanies the recital of the *Regina Coeli* in St Peter's square, Pope Francis announced the celebration of a Consistory on the 28th of June for the appointment of five new Cardinals, among whom was Mons. Lars Anders Arbolelius, ocd, who since 1998 has been the Bishop of Stockholm.

Monsignor Arbolelius was born in Sorengo, Switzerland, on the 24th September 1949, into the heart of a non-practicing Lutheran family. When his parents were divorced, he went with his mother to Lund, in Sweden, where he acquired the nationality of that country.

When he was converted to Catholicism at the age of 20, the writings of St Therese of the Child Jesus moved him to enter our Order, in the Flanders Province. He did his studies in Bruges, (Belgium) and in the Teresianum in Rome. He was appointed Bishop in 1998 by St John Paul II, and was ordained Bishop that same year.

From the coming 29th June, the day on which he will become Cardinal, he will be changed into a counsellor close to Pope Francis, called to uphold the Pope's service as Bishop of Rome and universal Pastor of the Church, as well as being called himself to serve the ecclesial communion and be a joyful herald of the Gospel, as Pope Francis reminded us in his message.



A virtual visit to the Teresianum

From the 5th of April last, the *Teresianum* Pontifical Theological Faculty and the Pontifical Institute of Spirituality in Rome has become more accessible, thanks to the possibility of making a virtual visit, which gives an opportunity of getting to know its more important facilities.

The 360 degree *tour* begins with a visit to the central cloister, which you can move around by means of the directional arrows which can be found at the bottom of the computer screen or, on mobile devices, simply by rotating the

screen or moving it with the finger. As they move around, visitors will find a series of pulsating camera shaped icons which, when pressed, will make it possible to see the entrance to the Teresianum, the crypt and classrooms, and the secretarial office.

One icon with an arrow enables you to make a virtual visit to the chapel and move about in it with a 360 degree vision. From the heights of the organ pipes, visitors can again press another arrow which will take them to the library, where some of the more significant items in its collection can be seen. Another icon on the door of the chapel will take you on a visit to the Aula Magna – the Great Hall.

The work was done so unselfishly by the photographer José Ángel Barbero and by Juan Borrego Alonso, from the leading company in technology and communication services for the Church, *COMUNICA+*, from Salamanca, Spain (www.comunicamas.com).

The website for the virtual visit is this:

<http://www.fotografiaspanoramicas.com/teresianum/>

An international Congress on St. John of the Cross in CITEs

With the ending of the cycle of Teresian Congresses (2010-2015) and the Congress on Mercy (2016) which has taken place, the University of Mysticism is undertaking a new project for the diffusion of the spirituality of St. Teresa and St. John by organising a cycle of Congresses dedicated to each of the works of St. John of the Cross.

The cycle of congresses will open with the *Ascent of Mount Carmel* (4th-10th September 2017). Doctrinally, this book develops a profound vision of man's path of freedom and of his progressive drawing closer to God, who transforms him. It is a process in which God makes himself known to man, at the same time that a change takes place in man leading from the senses to the spirit. St. John of the Cross wrote this work for the many souls to whom God gives the talent and grace to advance far along the path of union and who get lost because they do not know how to respond to this grace or who have no-one to direct them. A detailed programme of the content and guest speakers will later be made available.



Father Saverio meets with the nuns of the United States of America

Father General met with 162 Discalced Carmelite nuns from monasteries in the United States from April 25th to 29th in St. Louis (Missouri). The meeting can be regarded as historic, and its organization was aided by some OCDS members.

Father Saverio gave the sisters two conferences based on the Apostolic Constitution *Vultum Dei Quaerere*. They were titled, “Contemplative life and cloister” and “Contemplative life and the Word of God.”

Father General described the life of the contemplative Carmelites as a life of “seekers of the ways of the Spirit,” who do not limit themselves to welcoming the guest as industrious housewives – in the style of Martha – to the point of forgetting him and neglecting their relationship with him.

In his second conference, Father General insisted upon the need to establish a profound relationship with the Word of God, essential to the contemplative life.

The sisters had the opportunity for group reflection on the proposed topics in Father Saverio’s conferences, and he also had the opportunity to meet with the councils of the different federations.

Accompanying Father General from Rome were Father Daniel Chowning, Definitor, and Father Rafal Wilkowski, his personal secretary and the one responsible for the secretariat of the nuns.

Father Michael Berry of the Province of California-Arizona and Father Jude Peters, Provincial of Washington, also participated in the meeting.

A detailed record of the meeting in English with photographs may be found at this link:

<http://ocdnunsnationalmtg.blogspot.com.au/>

Meeting of the Theology Students of Indian Provinces

As customary, also this year 46 students of theology belonging to 7 Indian provinces met at Gandarvakottai Spirituality Centre, in the province of Tamilnadu for a week.

The primary intention of this gathering is to know each other and grow in fraternity. This is one of the initiatives taken by the Inter Provincial Council of India.

The Definitor for South Asia Fr. Johannes was present at this meeting. He addressed the students and celebrated the concluding Eucharist on 22nd April.

Added to this, they organize every year two months of second novitiate (for those preparing to make the Solemn Profession). They study about the charism and our holy parents during these special gatherings.



Monsignor Amancio Escapa ocd completes his earthly life.

On the 5th of May this year, there died in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, Monsignor Amancio Escapa Aparicio, titular Bishop of Cene and the emeritus auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese of Santo Domingo.

Monsignor Amancio was born in Cistierna, León, Spain on the 30th March 1938 and made his profession as a Discalced Carmelite in

Segovia, in the old Province of Castile, on the 2nd of August 1954, together with his twin brother José Marie, who died some years ago. They took as their religious names Amancio de María and Amando de Jesús, respectively.

Monsignor Amancio was ordained priest on 22nd of April, 1962, and on the 31st of May 1996, he was appointed the titular Bishop of Cene and the Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Santo Domingo as well as the Vicar General of the Archdiocese. His ordination as bishop took place on the 6th of July 1996.

He never dissociated himself from the Order despite his episcopal appointment and, with the agreement of the Superiors, made the community of St Jude Thaddeus in the capital his place of residence.

He ordained many Carmelite friars of the Commissariat of the Caribbean as deacons and priests and on his visits to Spain took active part in the solemn celebrations in our churches, such as the solemnity of Our Lady of Mt Carmel and other feast days.

From 1965 he had been living in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in the community of the St Jude Thaddeus College, where he was many times the Superior and Pastor. He also took on many pastoral duties in the Archdiocese and eventually was appointed Vicar General on the 17th December 1982. Of note was his assistance as a counselor during the years of the “Cursillos of Christianity”.

He died at 79 years of age as the result of grave lung cancer.

Masses for his eternal repose were celebrated in the cathedral, the seat of the “Cursillos of Christianity movement and in the Discalced Carmelite parish of St Jude Thaddeus. He was buried beside his brother in the “Gate of Heaven” cemetery of the Dominican capital.

May he rest in peace and let us give thanks to God for the intense and fruitful ministry of Monsignor Amancio.



24th Portugal OCDS meeting. Fátima, 28th to 30th April 2017

Secular Carmel vocational discernment

In Fatima's *Domus Carmeli* was celebrated the twenty-fourth annual national meeting of the Portuguese OCDS with some 80 to 90 taking part from the various communities in Portugal, including the Isle of Madeira. Present was Fr

Alzinar Debastiani, Fr General's Delegate for the Secular Carmelite Order and Affiliated Institutes.

Some 16 communities exist in the Province, with around 600 members, the majority of whom reside in Madeira (400 members).

Among the more important conclusions of the congress we can point out the following: that the laity have a greater role in the fraternities and in coming meetings; that the fraternities deepen in the theology of the laity as set out in the second Vatican Council and has been developed since; that there is a greater turnover in the positions of the different communities; that the communities of Madeira be updated and renewed in

accordance with the provisions of the present Constitutions of the Secular Order. To achieve this aim, Fr Alpoim Alves was appointed specific delegate for the region to help Fr Joaquim Teixeira, the Provincial Delegate, in his duties.

In addition to discussions, there was time to meet the friars and the sisters of the Fatima monastery. All those taking part made a pilgrimage along the Hungarian *Via Sacra*, assisted by Marian texts and from the writings of the saints of Carmel. During these days, 3 members of the Paço d'Arco community in Lisbon made their temporary promises, as well as 4 lay people from the Fatima community taking part in the ceremony for entering the novitiate.

The closing Eucharist, which took place in the chapel of the monastery of the Carmelite nuns, was a beautiful experience of communion between the three branches of the Discalced Carmelite Order. The chapel is dedicated to Jacinta and Francisco, the young shepherds of Fatima, who were proclaimed saints by Pope Francis on the 13th of May this year, the day which marked the centenary of the apparitions.