



## The Teresian Jubilee Year finishes in Avila and Alba de Tormes

**T**here has come to an end the first Teresian jubilee year granted by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to Avila and Alba de Tormes, on the condition that the feast of St Teresa of Jesus be celebrated on Sunday.

In Avila, between the novena and the closing Mass in the cathedral, at which presided the diocesan Bishop, Monseñor Jesús García Burillo, there was celebrated on the 15th of October a solemn Mass at which presided the Vicar General of the Order, Fr Agustí Borrell, ocd, followed by a procession of the statue of the Saint through the streets of the city.

In Alba de Tormes the celebrations began with a solemn Mass at which presided the Bishop of Salamanca, Monseñor Carlos López, followed by a procession. On the 22nd, as is traditional on the octave of the feast,

the inhabitants of Avila said farewell to the Saint with an emotional processional through the streets of the locality, after celebrating the Eucharist at which presided Fr Miguel Márquez.

This year, the number of pilgrims arriving at Avila and Alba de Tormes has been very high and noteworthy was the visit of His Majesty, King Felipe VI of Spain, on the 19th of September, who entered through the holy door and visited the Teresian museum in Avila.

Both locations managed to organize, in addition, a religious program, catechetical-Teresian and cultural that, in Alba de Tormes, will continue until December with the Vitor Teresa exhibition. [Vitor = Public rejoicing in honor of the achiever of some glorious deed.]

## **Teresian publication in English: St Teresa of Ávila Her Writings and Life**

*Edited by Terence O'Reilly, Colin Thompson and Lesley Twomey*

At a time when women were effectively silenced in church, St Teresa

of Ávila (1515-82) represents an extraordinary exception. Early

struggles with her spiritual advisers gave way to an increasing confidence that she was inspired by God. She reformed the Carmelite Order she had entered as a young woman, and founded convents all over Spain, yet still found time to write a series of spiritual classics on the life of prayer which are characterized by a robust common sense, a directness of style,

and a strong and positive vision of God's love at work in individual lives. This collection of essays by leading scholars in Teresian studies covers topics in history, art history, literature, theology, and spirituality, in a fresh assessment of her significance five hundred years after her birth.

## Jubilee Celebrations

**R**ecently, on the 3rd of October, Fr François Marie Lethel, from the Paris Province, celebrated his golden jubilee of profession, accompanied by the friars of the community of the St John of the Cross International college, together with numerous priests, religious – male and female, in particular the Teresian Missionary sisters who live in their General House with their General, Sr María José Gay, together with a good number of friends. A solemn thanksgiving ceremony took place in the Teresianum chapel fol-

lowed by refreshments and a fraternal supper.

The same day, the Vicar General, Fr Agustí Borrell, together with Fathers Alejan.dro Bartolomé, Jesús Sans and Teodoro Polo celebrated 40 years of religious profession in the chapel of the monastery in the Plaza de España of Madrid.

It so happened that, on the same day, Fr Saverio Cannistrà, our General, celebrated his 60th birthday.

To all of them our prayers, gratitude and congratulations.

## Course for the Our Lady of Mt Carmel Association - South Brasil

**F**rom the 21st to the 28th of September 2018, the Carmelite nuns of the Our Lady of Mt Carmel Association - South Brasil

- gathered together in the St John of the Cross House of Prayer in Porto Alegre, to take part in a course titled "Accompaniment with Empathy"

given by Fr Luis Jorge González, a Mexican Discalced Carmelite friar, a professor in the Teresianum in Rome and the University of Mysticism in Avila. The course was based on the book *Santa Teresa: Acompañar Empático* (González, LJ (2016), México: Ediciones Duruelo).

The course was destined mainly for formators and there were present 21 nuns from 11 monasteries of the re-

gion. In five steps, Fr Luis developed the topic of treatment with empathy in spiritual accompaniment: 1) Awareness of the THOU; 2) Migration into ones interior world; 3) Intuition in order to be with the THOU without judging it; 4) Capturing the emotional state of the THOU and 5) Reformulation in order to verify the understanding of the THOU.

## **The Congress of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites of Canada**

**F**rom 5th-7th October, 2018, the Secular Carmel of Canada, which is part of the Province of Malta gathered together for their 8th Congress, where some members from the delegation of western Canada were also present.

The opening Eucharist was celebrated by the Cardinal of Toronto, Mons. Thomas Collins and the Provincial of Malta, Fr. Juan de Bono OCD, as well as other priests and deacons.

The days were spent in intense fraternal exchanges among the approximately 200 members present at the Congress from the 22 Secular Carmelite Communities situated in English speaking Central-eastern Canada. Also present were some Portuguese speakers and one Chinese speaker.

The lectures revolved around the

general theme of the Congress: “Enkindling the fire within” Carmelite spirituality for today’s World, which were given by Gladys McMullin OCDS, President of the OCDS Provincial Council, Fr. Alzinir Debastiani OCD, General Delegate of the Secular Carmel, Fr. Juan de Bono OCD, Provincial of Malta and Fr. Dominic Borg OCD, Delegate of the Secular Carmel.

Eight members made their promises during the closing Eucharist of the Congress and eight others were admitted from different communities. One member professed temporary vows in the OCDS.

Thanks to the good preparation and organisation of the Congress great communion and participation was experienced during the session.

It was also an important occasion

for sharing and strengthening the vocation to Carmel, together with an interest for vocations to religious life, which was very much present in the prayers which were raised to the Good Shepherd during the Congress.

It is good to recall that in this part of Canada, the Discalced Carmelite nuns have a presence with two con-

vents, one in Zephyr and the other in St Agatha and the friars with a community in Scarborough. We give thanks to God for these few days spent together and pray to Him for the presence of the Order in Canada.

Fr. Alzinir Debastiani, OCD, General Delegate to the OCDS

## OCDS Provincial Meeting: Commissariat of Sicily

**F**ather Agustí Borrell, OCD, Vicar General, held a conference on September 23, 2018, in Mount Carmel – Loco Monaco, Sicily, for the Secular Order. It was titled, “The Beatitudes: Day-to-day holiness by the light of Gaudete et Exultate.” Participants included members of the 15 OCDS communities of the Commissariat of Sicily and those interested in Carmel. Father Agustí proposed a series of reflections on the universal call to sanctity, which is the subject of Pope Francis’s exhortation “Gaudete et Exultate.”

The Vicar General emphasized the responsibility associated with the gift of holiness that God offers every Christian: to incorporate oneself by

means of baptism into the dimension of being a child of God, holy and beloved; that means to own the responsibility of caring for and increasing the holiness received as a gift, living out the discipleship of Jesus in a coherent and creative way. Along these lines, he brought to mind the specific role of Carmel, a school of holiness within the Church, and its great contribution to her with numerous and great saints that have flourished in the Order. The Beatitudes, affirmed Father Vicar General, are a genuine clue to track down the footsteps of Christ in the life of every person.

They are the way to follow Jesus, an invitation to happiness, Father

Agustí recalled, as Pope Francis indicated in his exhortation. He also highlighted how the act of following Jesus is completely outlined in the constitutions of the OCDS, since they call Secular Carmelites to commit to making the Beatitudes the

standard for their choices in life and individual path of spiritual growth. Lastly, the Vicar recalled that the fundamental elements of the vocation of a Carmelite layperson are also prayer, service, and the communal aspect which is rooted in charity.

## Meeting of European Provincials in Egypt

**T**he annual meeting of European Provincials took place from the 22nd to the 26th of this past October. The General Delegation of Egypt hosted the meeting this time.

The objective of the meeting, besides understanding the actual state of that Delegation and express the communion which the Order in Europe has with the religious at work there, was to get to know the Coptic Church and explore pathways of

dialog with the Orthodox Church and Islam by means of meetings and conferences. To this effect, they participated in an interreligious prayer meeting with Muslims and visited two monasteries: one Coptic and one Orthodox. They presided over the meeting between Father Lukasz Kandy, ocd, II Definitior, and the President of European Provincials, Father Juan de Bono, ocd, of the Province of Malta.

## News from Central Africa

**T**he Central African Republic is certainly a country that must be rebuilt, or at least, a country to build anew, despite the fact that there are many people who are still set on fueling violence and war.

Our brothers of the Carmel of Bangui, however, are set on collaborating with the country's growth

and the recuperation of its dignity. With the help of several people, they have been able to set up factory to produce strong bricks, stronger than the war.

With South African machinery, a Congolese engineer, and financing from a French foundation and the Italian Episcopal Conference, they

recently began producing bricks that improve greatly upon the country's traditional method: to the clay that is currently used, they add sand and cement, which makes the bricks much more solid. The first client of the factory of our Discalced Carmelite brothers is a center for malnutrition that is being built on the initiative of Pope Francis.

As Father Federico Trincherio, ocd, puts it: "For me and my missionary brothers, old and young, the joy and responsibility of being the foundation of construction – day by day, brick by brick, friar by friar – of this little Carmel, in this young Church, in this great country, a fraternal embrace. Father Federico...and twelve bricks (friars) under construction."