



José Gómez Menor Dies

On June 16, the Toledan historian and priest, Don José Gómez-Minor, died at the age of 91.

Author of numerous works on the lineage of Saint John of the Cross in Toledo, Gómez-Menor devoted much of his work as a historian to the study of topics related to the Teresian Carmel. In 2011 he published a

definitive work on the Saint entitled “Raíces Históricas de San Juan de la Cruz” [“Historical Roots of St John of the Cross”] in which was a prologue by the famous Spanish writer José Jiménez Lozano, also deceased this year. He collaborated with him in the Professor Santiago Sastre edition, with whom he appears in the photo that accompanies this report.

Prague nuns Transfer

After a long period of discernment, the Discalced Carmelites Nuns of Prague have left the monastery they occupied in the city, to move to a new one in Drasty, a small town located a few kilometres from the capital of the Czech Republic. The final transfer took place on the 1st of March 2020. They themselves explain the reasons and circumstances of the search for a new location, which has

taken more than ten years: “The reason for our decision was the growing noise of the square in which the monastery was located, which also had only a very small garden (just 12x15 metres). We are building our new home on an ex-farm with adjacent land, which was returned to the church in 2017 in a pitiful state. In the first phase, the future guest house was rebuilt, which has now become our temporary monastery. The

next phase will be the construction of the monastery with the chapel, which will begin, we hope, at the end of this year and will probably take three to four years. The entire reconstruction process is carried out with the financial help of benefactors, to whom we are very grateful, and with the help of the voluntary work of many people, who are a true community of friends born around the monastery.

The original monastery in Hradčanské náměstí (Prague) will now be managed

by our Discalced Carmelite friars.

We ask for your prayers that we allow ourselves to be guided in everything by the Holy Spirit and that both places, the former monastery and the future one, may provide space for a deep encounter with God.

You can find more information about our move on our website: www.karmeldrasty.eu

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Information about the original monastery and its current use can be found at: www.fortna.eu”.

Message of John Paul II to the Carmelite family (2001)

Therefore two truths are evoked by the sign of the Scapular: on the one hand, the constant protection of the Blessed Virgin, not only on life's journey, but also at the moment of passing into the fullness of eternal glory; on the other, the awareness that devotion to her cannot be limited to prayers and tributes in her honour on certain occasions, but must become a “habit”, that is, a permanent orientation of one's own Christian conduct, woven of prayer and interior life, through frequent reception of the sacraments and the concrete practice

of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In this way the Scapular becomes a sign of the “covenant” and reciprocal communion between Mary and the faithful: indeed, it concretely translates the gift of his Mother, which Jesus gave on the Cross to John and, through him, to all of us, and the entrustment of the beloved Apostle and of us to her, who became our spiritual Mother.

http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2001/march/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20010326_ordine-carmelo.html

BENEDICT XVI

ANGELUS

Les Combes (Aosta Valley)

Sunday, 16 July 2006

Through a happy coincidence, this Sunday falls on 16 July, the day when the liturgy commemorates Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The slopes of Carmel, a high ridge that runs down the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea at the altitude of Galilee, are dotted with numerous natural caves, beloved by hermits. The most famous of these men of God was the great Prophet Elijah, who in the ninth century before Christ strenuously defended the purity of faith in the one true God from contamination by idolatrous cults. Inspired by the figure of Elijah, the contemplative order of Carmelites arose. It is a religious family that counts among its members great saints such as Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Thérèse of the Child Jesus and Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (in the world: Edith Stein). The Carmelites have spread among the

Christian people devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, holding her up as a model of prayer, contemplation and dedication to God.

Indeed, Mary was the first, in a way which can never be equalled, to believe and experience that Jesus, the Incarnate Word, is the summit, the peak of man's encounter with God. By fully accepting the Word, she "was blessedly brought to the holy Mountain" (cf. *Opening Prayer of the Memorial*), and lives for ever with the Lord in body and soul.

Today, I would like to entrust to the Queen of Mount Carmel all contemplative life communities scattered throughout the world, especially those of the Carmelite Order, among which I recall the Monastery of Quart, not far from here, that I have had the opportunity to visit in these days. May Mary help every Christian to find God in the silence of prayer.

Living Flame of Love Congress in the CITEs

Living Flame of Love, the title of one of the most well-known works of St. John of the Cross, is also the name of the International Congress of the International Center of Teresian San Juanista (CITEs), University of the Mystic, organized each year in Avila. This year, the fourth convocation of the Congress will take place as scheduled, between August 31 and September 6. As usual, people may attend in person or online according to the director of CITEs. If circumstances prohibit personal attendance, the Congress will still take place online. Admirable efforts have been made by the CITEs community to adapt the conference space to the preventative measures required by sanitation authorities. Consequently, the Congress

as well as other activities that will take place in the Center this summer will be celebrated with absolute security. Fr. Francisco Javier Sancho has indicated that this world congress will include highly renowned specialists who “will help us enter into the most profound center of the soul’s work in order to understand the depth and breadth of St. John of the Cross’s experience and doctrine. A congress in which we will come close to St. John of the Cross, his artistic and literary creation and his doctrine, discovering new arenas of reading and interpretation as well as interreligious and interdisciplinary dialogues.” For more information on this and other activities: <https://www.mistica.es/>

New Deacons

The convent of The Saint (the family home of St. Teresa of Jesus) in Avila, Spain, was the location of the ordination to the diaconate of Avila’s native son, Luís Carlos Muñoz on Saturday, June 27.

The same day in Lebanon, our brothers Marcos, Jorge (of the Semi-province of Lebanon), Juan, y Zacarías (of the General Delegation of Egypt) were also ordained. Good news also comes from Egypt

regarding the reopening of the churches for the celebration of Mass. Fortunately, our Sanctuary of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Cairo never closed to visits from the faithful who sought the

protection of St. Therese throughout the pandemonium. The Sanctuary remained open for personal prayer, taking all the security precautions required by the municipal and government authorities.

Reminiscences of Fr. Jerónimo Gracián

An article in the *Spanish Biographical Dictionary* (of the Spanish Royal Academy of History) reminds us that Fr. Jerónimo Gracián's 475th birth anniversary (b. June 6, 1545) was celebrated this past June. The article, written by Fr. José Vicente Rodríguez, OCD, was published on the Royal Academy of Spanish History's website:
<http://dbe.rah.es/biografias/18443/jeronimo-gracian-dantisco>

The Dictionary has many other articles on persons connected with the Teresian Carmel, starting with St. Teresa herself. The articles were collected two years ago on the blog of the Discalced Carmelites of Puçol, Valencia, Spain, *De la Rueda a la Pluma (From the Spinning Wheel to the Pen)*. The complete list is available at this URL:
<https://delaruecaalapluma.wordpress.com/2018/05/14/diccionario-biografico-espanol/>

**The news service is suspended during
the month of August**
