



SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES

Corso d'Italia, 38
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are now approaching the General Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites, which will be held in Rome from 30th August to 14th September.

The General Chapter, which is celebrated in our Order every six years, is its most solemn event. The Chapter elects the new General Administration (the Superior General and his Council). But above all, the Chapter Assembly, composed of the Superiors and Delegates of all the Circumscriptions of the Order, will make a careful evaluation of the state of the Order, with its strengths and weaknesses, and will draw up guidelines for its immediate future.

Each Chapter is a time of grace, where we experience the communion that unites us with one another and with the whole Church, but it is also a time of great responsibility because our capacity to be faithful to the Carmelite vocation and address the challenges of our time will be determined by the way in which we are able to listen to one another and to hear, in our voices, the subtle voice of the Spirit speaking to us.

This Chapter, the 92nd in the history of the Order, will focus its reflection on a text that has been developed during this sexennium, which is titled: *Declaration on the Teresian-Carmelite Charism*. With this document we have tried to respond in a synthetic and updated way to the question: what does it mean to be Discalced Carmelites today? How can we live out our vocation in such a way that our witness is in continuity with the inheritance we have received and in harmony with the challenges which the world of today demands that we address?

We will discuss these issues for a fortnight. There will be about one hundred friars representing the whole Order. But with us there will also be you, friars, sisters, friends of the Carmel of Teresa and John of the Cross. We are counting on you, on your fraternal affection and on your prayers so that the grace of this Chapter may not be in vain, but that it may be a new beginning for all of us, from which we set out again renewed and strengthened in our vocation and mission at the service of the Church and the world.

Fraternally in Carmel,

Fr. Saverio Cannistrà OCD
Superior General