



CHIQUITUNGA RETURNS TO PARAGUAY

Blessed Maria Felicia of Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament, OCD, called “Chiquitunga” (the Little One), is the first Paraguayan to be beatified. She died on 28 April 1959 at the age of 34 and her relics were transferred to Rome three years ago for a process of embalming and preservation. Actually two reliquaries have been prepared: one will remain in the monastery of the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Asuncion for veneration by the faithful while the other will be carried around to the more remote regions of Paraguay. This was the wish of Chiquitunga herself.

The time had come for the return of the relics to Paraguay. On 18 September, Paraguayan residents in Rome celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving in the parish of St. Teresa of Avila in Rome, before the relics were to leave the General House on 21 September last. Among those present were Signores Roberto Melgarejo and Alfredo Ratti, the respective Paraguayan Ambassadors to Italy and the Holy See, as well as Frs. Migual Marquez, Superior General, and Marco Chiesa, Postulator General of our Order.

About 2,000 people were gathered at Silvio Petirosi international airport to welcome the relics back to Paraguay. Blessed Maria Felicia’s own sister, Mirella Guggiari, was among those present. Monsignor Adalberto Martinez, Bishop of Asuncion, presided at a special Mass at the airport itself. At the conclusion of Mass the relics were conveyed to the Carmelite monastery on vehicles provided by the Fire Brigade. Huge crowds accompanied the cortege. Some of the faithful followed in procession, others applauded throughout its journey while others scattered flowers around it. A police escort maintained safety and order. Music from the National Police and Army bands filled the air as the relics reached their destination.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, sent greetings to the people of Paraguay on the return of Chiquitunga to her homeland. In a letter from the Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Pope expressed his personal joy at the return of the relics and he encouraged the young people of Paraguay to imitate the life of faith, hope and love of Blessed Maria Felicia.

OCD PROVINCES OF BRAZIL ORGANISE A CONGRESS IN HONOUR OF SAINT JOSEPH

In honour of this year dedicated to St. Joseph, the 1st Interprovincial OCD Congress was held from 9-15 October. The theme for the Congress was “Saint Joseph: between silence and action”. The online event, organised by the OCD Provinces of Brazil, was transmitted on the YouTube channels of the OCDS. At least 8.000 viewers, from different countries, were able to tune in to the videos.

The Congress proved to be a great occasion for fraternity and formation among the entire Brazilian Teresian family and a significant witness to their sharing of the Teresian charism. All three branches (friars, nuns and seculars) of both the OCD Provinces, (St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mount Carmel) were involved in the organization, permitting all of them to participate in spreading their common love for St. Joseph.

All the participants had access to

the varied formative activities for a deepening appreciation of Josephine spirituality: a scriptural approach, Papal teachings, patronage, devotions, art etc. Some artistic performances were also included, especially one of participants in a musical competition honouring St. Joseph. The opening and closing Masses were celebrated by the respective Superiors of the two Provinces and a Triduum for the Feast of St. Teresa, our Mother, was also part of the agenda.

This Interprovincial Congress, honouring St. Joseph, celebrated, in a Teresian prospective, the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the universal Church. It is our hope that the special event may bear spiritual fruits for the good of all the people of God and the blessing of St. Joseph on the entire Carmelite family in Brazil.

HUGE COMPLEX AT CARMEL OF BANGUI (CENTRAL AFRICA)

On 16 July, at the conclusion of a Mass presided over by Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalaing, the foundation stone for a new convent of

Bangui Carmel was finally laid. We had been waiting for this moment for many years. In 2006 we had built a monastery for the friars. At the same time, our

convent had become more and more such a focal point of reference for so many people that the whole quarter around us came to be called *Carmel*. Through the course of the years, demands for lodgings increased and more and more people were coming to participate at our Sunday Mass. In 2013 the community acquired a venue for student accommodation and an agricultural school was opened in 2020. All of this finally forced us to reconsider our situation and to provide adequate structures to correspond with the requirements for seminarians' formation and the requests for lodgings. More important still, it was necessary to offer our faithful a dignified venue for prayer – our Sunday liturgical celebrations take place under a simple roof of sheet iron. After long and patient discernment we decided on the construction of a completely new complex. It will be made up of three sectors: 1. A *convent* with twenty rooms for the community, with

everything necessary for conventual life and our *apostolate*; 2. Fifteen *guest rooms* with a dining room and a meeting hall; 3. A large *church*. At the moment, the whole quarter *Carmel* is involved in building the convent and we hope to be able to take up residence in it by the end of next year.

As you can easily understand, we are talking about an ambitious project, something that will be very costly and will engage us for quite a few years. We would not have had the courage to even consider such an undertaking without the encouragement of many friends. They were quite aware of our needs if we were to host the young seminarians, guests and particularly the faithful. These good friends also appreciated our wishes and hopes for the projects we had in mind. May we be permitted to thank them sincerely with all our hearts.

More information on web www.amiciziamissionaria.it/donazioni/

VISIT OF FATHER GENERAL TO THE TERESIANUM

From the 11th to 15th October, the Superior General, Fr. Miguel Marquez Calle, paid a fraternal visit to the Permanent Community of the Teresianum. He was interested in having first-hand information about the life of our religious there and their work in our Pontifical Faculty. During these few days he was also able to have brief

meetings with the International College and the Missionary Seminary, while he would hope to pay both these sectors longer visits soon.

During this first meeting with the religious of the Teresianum, after Vespers on Monday 11th, Fr. General explained to the community that he wished to converse with each of them,

simply to understand the situation of every individual and to share their community life for these few days.

The visit was solemnly concluded on the day of the opening of the academic year 2021-2022, the Feast of St. Teresa. Fr. Miguel presided at the Eucharist and the official academic opening. The

President of the Faculty, Fr. Christof Betschart, reported on the activities of the preceding year. Fr. Ciro Garcia, the out-going Librarian of the Faculty who returns to his own Province soon, delivered his personal “last” lecture, by way of an inaugural lecture for the new academic year.

CITeS. INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

The academic year 2020-2021 for the Master’s Degree in Mystic and Human Sciences was inaugurated on October 4 at the Teresiano-Sanjuanista International Centre, CITeS, Avila. This particular degree is just one of the various academic programmes on offer at the ‘Universita della Mistica’. The inaugural ceremony commenced at 9.45 a.m. The Centre’s staff expressed their satisfaction at being able to undertake this new course despite the pandemic situation which has prevented many students from

coming to Avila. These particular students will have to follow the lectures of the initial trimester online.

10 students can attend physically while 30 others will be online. 12 different nations are represented this year. The day’s celebration concluded with Mass at 19.00, led by Fr. Francisco Javier Sancho Fermin, OCD, Director of CITeS. The General Secretary of the Centre, Fr. Jerzy Nawojowski, reported on the academic year 2020-2021 and the academic and cultural activities during the summer of 2020.

INAUGURATION OF CASA MONTE CARMELI AT LEPATERIQUE

During the solemnity of our Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus, we celebrated a thanksgiving Eucharist for *Casa del Monte Carmelo* at Lepaterique, Honduras.

We are overjoyed because today has been a very significant day: a first Mass

celebrated in this House, on such an important occasion for Teresian Carmel, the feast day of St. Teresa. The Mass was celebrated in what will be a dining hall, so, with all due reverence, we can say that the first banquet there was a Eucharistic one. Teresa of Jesus, such an exceptional

woman, Saint, Doctor of the Church...is a fount of inspiration for many young women who are commencing a journey in *Casa Monte Carmelo*. This house welcomes young adolescents, from some remote and impoverished villages in the region of Lepaterique, who have no access to education. They now have the opportunity to begin studies in preparation for becoming protagonists in their family lives and in the Church and society.

We thank God, that with the help of many people, parishioners and institutions, we have the facilities to welcome these young women who are a hope for humanity. In a particular way, we thank the Order of Discalced Carmelites that through the Secretary for Missions, Fr. Jerome Paluku, has provided significant assistance. We are also very grateful for the substantial financial help for our project supplied by the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI).

FR. PATRIZIO SCIADINI DECORATED CAVALIER OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF ITALY ("Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia")

On October 7, Fr. Patrizio Sciadini, OCD, was decorated as a Cavalier of the Order of the Star of Italy. The Italian Ambassador (to Egypt) read the formula of conferring of the honour on Fr. Patrizio as follows:-

"In the exercise of ministry as a religious and priest, Fr. Patrizio is distinguished for his extraordinary dedication and depth of humanity.

In the quarter of Shoubra, in which the Carmelite convent of Cairo is situated, with generosity and self-sacrifice he works tirelessly for the poor and the sick. Many of these are assisted in the hospital quarters attached to the convent. These quarters were greatly enhanced by the same convent's donation "iside2019". Fr. Patrizio was responsible for innumerable preventative and beneficial initiatives for sufferers during

the covid-19 pandemic.

Among the last Italian priests in Egypt, he represents a spiritual point of reference for the community of his co-nationals towards whose needs he has always been particularly attentive. In his daily activities, Fr. Patrizio exemplifies, to the utmost, values of solidarity and generosity, while his conduct has been a credit to his nation.

For his services rendered in the promotion of friendship and solidarity between the Italian and Egyptian communities and, in particular, by means of the stimulation and spread of works of charity, at the instigation of the Italian Minister for External Affairs and International Cooperation, the Honourable Luigi di Maio, the President of the Italian Republic, Professor Sergio Mattarella, has decided to confer the distinction of Cavalier of the Order of the Star of Italy on Father Patrizio."

TERCENTENARY OF “ECHTEN KARMELITENGEIST (1721-2021) IN RATISBON

On 8 October 2021 a special ceremony commemorating the 300th anniversary of “echten Karmelitengeist” of Ratisbon was held in the Diocesan Centre of Obermunster (Ratisbon). Karmelitengeist has been produced since 1721 in the Carmelite convent of St. Joseph at Ratisbon. Only two brothers of the community, at a time know the secret formula (Arcanum) for the medicinal essence’s production and they are entrusted with handing it on to successive generations of friars. Music for the festival was provided by RUBIO, the baroque orchestra of the University of Ratisbon. In a key note lecture, Dr. Thomas Richter, pharmacist, traced the history of a distillation of Melissa in the late Middle Ages to the present day Karmelitengeist.

Personal greetings from the Bishop were read by Ms. Maria Luisa Ofele, while Councillor Dr. Thomas Burger conveyed the congratulations of the city itself. At the conclusion of his own address, the Provincial, Fr. Dr. Raoul Kiyangi OCD, nominated the Delegate Administrator of “Geistfabrik”, Mr. Albert Aufschlager, as an “Honorary Carmelite”.

The ceremony concluded with a projection of the film “Der Geist der Karmeliten”, shown by Fr. Matthaus Bochenski OCD. This is a documentary about what is probably the most guarded secret of Ratisbon. It also provided an opportunity to see behind the walls of the convent and observe some of the operations of the “Geistfabrik”.