



## Father General's Visit to Poland

The year 2021 was a Jubilee Year for the Congregation of the Carmelite Sisters of the Child Jesus. Exactly 100 years ago, on December 31, the Religious Institute was born, founded by the Servant of God Fr. Anzelm Gądek OCD and the Servant of God, Sr. Teresa Kierocińska. Currently, the Congregation has about 450 sisters who live and serve in 11 countries. Father General (Miguel Marquez Calle) took part in the Jubilee celebrations in Sosnowiec on December 31. During the Holy Mass at which presided the Local Ordinary, Bishop Grzegorz Kaszak, Fr. General gave the commemorative homily. Present in Poland from 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, Fr. General also visited some communities of our friars and nuns. On December 27, Fr. General met the permanent community and student residence in Poznań, and then the community in Zwola. The next day he visited two communities of friars in Warsaw (Provincial Curia and Solec) and a community of nuns. On December 29-

30, Fr. General met two communities of Krakow: the formation community in Krakow-Centre and the community of the Provincial Curia. In addition, he visited both monasteries of nuns in Krakow: Wesoła and Łobzów. Finally, he visited Czerna and the community of Carmelite missionary sisters in Krakow.

After the celebrations in Sosnowiec, Fr. General went to Przemyśl, visiting along the way the Discalced Carmelites of Tarnów and Rzeszów. On New Year's Day, Fr. General gave the homily during the solemn Eucharist in the church of the friars in Przemyśl, visited the nuns and at lunch met the Bishop of the Diocese of Przemyśl of the Latins, Adam Szal. In the afternoon he continued his journey to the convent of the friars in Lublin, also visiting the community of nuns in Dys.

The entire visit - short, but very intense - was an opportunity to get to know a little more closely the various Carmelite communities in Poland, their joys and their concerns.

## Two young Friars die in a road accident.

**O**n January the 4<sup>th</sup> this year, our fellow friars, Masin Diga and Liudas Parichha, from Delhi Province, died tragically in a car accident. They were visiting their families after a long separation due to the pandemic. On January the 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, they were on a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Kandhamal with some of their family and friends, when the driver lost control of the vehicle and it plunged more than 20 metres. Brother Masin died instantly and Br Liudas before arriving at the hospital.

In total, there were three dead and six seriously injured. The funeral of our Brothers took place the following afternoon, January the fifth.

Father General immediately expressed his sorrow and closeness to the Friars of the Province of Delhi and to the families of the deceased. «If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord» (Rom 14:8). Our prayers go to our Confreres of the Province of Delhi and to the families.

## News from the Secular Order in Iceland

**O**n December 11, 2021, six members in formation in the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order in Hafnarfjörður made their temporary Promises in the OCDS, during a celebration in the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Hafnarfjörður. Presiding at the celebration of Holy Mass was Fr Jan Piotr Malicki OCD, Provincial of the Province of Warsaw (Poland), together with Fr Robert M. Marciniak OCD, Delegate of the Secular Order in Iceland. Such an event was an absolute novelty in the history of Iceland, as this OCDS

community is the first and only one in the country. It was officially erected on April 13, 2019, but members had been meeting regularly since 2011 under the spiritual direction of Mother Agnes, a Carmelite nun from Hafnarfjörður Monastery, which continues to provide spiritual assistance to the group.

May the Icelandic members of the OCDS deepen their vocation, rejoice in a continual discovery of the richness of the Carmelite charism and joyfully give witness to their faith in the places where they live.

# The journey towards unity of the Italian OCDS

“Walking towards unity” was the aim motivating the Interprovincial Coordination Council of Italy, at the invitation of the previous General Delegate, Father Alzinir Debastiani ocd, to begin the drafting of a Formation Process that could be used by all six OCDS Provinces of Italy. This adventure began in November 2017 with the preparation of a Formation Notebook from each of the six Provinces.

The most demanding work was certainly that of coordinating the individual contributions that were nuanced by different sensitivities and styles. This diversity, a source of wealth, had to find a logical and organic development: this involved a

remarkable capacity for coordination, for which we thank the main architect, Brigida Silvana De Grandi, as National Head of Formation, and Maria Lupi who supported her in the final review of all the work. The process, approved by the General Definitory *ad experimentum* for five years on 18th of August 2021, has now been delivered to the individual Community Formators as a precious aid to be used on the path to human, Christian and Carmelite maturity of the formators.

Let us entrust to the Lord, to the Virgin Mary and to Saint Joseph this National Formation Process so that it may bear good and abundant fruit for the good of the OCDS and for its journey in synodality, in line with the current path of the Church.

## Fiftieth anniversary of Carmel in Central Africa

On December 16, 1971, Fathers Nicolò Ellena, Marco Conte, Agostino Mazzocchi and Carlo Cencio arrived in Bozoum, in the parish of San Michele, to help the Capuchin friars and then succeed them. Among the Capuchins at that time was Fr. Armando Gianni, a future bishop of Bouar. This was the beginning of the Mission in Central Africa of the Discalced

Carmelites of the Genoa Province. In 1973, Fr. Carlo founded the parish of the Child Jesus in Baoro. In 1982, the Genoa Provincial Council declared the Mission in Central Africa as a Provincial Delegation of the Discalced Carmelites. The year 2021 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Carmel in the Central African Republic. The Eucharist on Sunday, December 20, marked the

opening of the fiftieth anniversary. The celebration was presided over by Bishop Mirek Gucwa of Bouar. Our joy was great not only for the presence of so many faithful, but also for the gift of two new priests: Father Martial and Father Jeannot-Marie.

This anniversary is an opportunity to thank all those who, in one way or another, have assisted Carmel to take root in the land of Central Africa, and to prepare the next fifty years in the company of many Central African friars.

## Solemn Professions in the Hai Phong Carmel (Vietnam)

**T**he Hai Phong Monastery of Carmelite nuns is situated in the Diocese of Nam Am, Vietnam. It was founded from the Hue Carmel. Two years after its inauguration, the monastery continues to grow both in terms of nuns and those from the locality. On December 16, 2021, during the Eucharist presided over by Msgr. Joseph, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese, two Sisters made their solemn profession: Sister Mary-Francis Tran Thi Phuong and Mary-Michael Dang Thi Le. With the

solemn profession of our two sisters, the monastery begins a new stage in its development.

We give thanks for the gift of their lives to the Lord and for His benevolence to us.

Due to the pandemic, only a few people could be present. At the end of the Mass, the Prioress of the Community expressed her deep gratitude to the Archbishop, the priests present and the parishioners of Dong Con who were present or who were united to us in prayer.