



## MESSAGE FROM OUR FATHER GENERAL

I would like to address the whole Order, friars, nuns and members of the OCDS, in this dramatic and terrible moment: in union with the call and anguished supplication of Pope Francis to all the People of God, I would like to ask you most ardently, as a priority and urgent task, to pray with all the ardour and fervour of your faith for all the Ukrainian people who are being attacked and bombarded now.

We are in contact with our friars and nuns in Ukraine, namely the 2 communities of Discalced Carmelites Nuns in Kiev and Kharkiv, and our friars in Berdichev. The Delegate Father Jozef is travelling right now to Kiev to be with one of our friars

and with the community of nuns. Some sisters from Kiev have decided to leave for Poland and get to safety. The community in Kharkiv has decided not to leave and to stay in their monastery. These sisters are the closest to the border.

We are all Ukraine now. This morning the Mother Superior of Kharkiv was telling me that they have no mass these days. I told her that the Eucharist of the whole Order had become one with them. We are in deep communion with the Carmel and the people of Ukraine. We are all ONE at this moment with our lamps burning.

With Mary and Joseph and all the Saints of Carmel, we pray to you Lord for the people of Ukraine.

## AVILA: JUBILEE YEAR FOR IV CENTENARY OF SAINT TERESA'S CANONIZATION

12 March 2022 – 15 October 2023

At the request of Mons. Gil Tamayo, Bishop of Avila, Pope Francis has decreed that Avila will celebrate a Jubilee Year to mark the IV centenary of the canonization of St. Teresa of Jesus. This Jubilee will have an unusual

duration: it will be celebrated from 12 March 2022 until 15 October 2023 (a year and a half). This is because it coincides with the Teresian Jubilee Year which the Holy Father periodically decrees for the Diocese of Avila in any year that the Feast

of St. Teresa occurs on a Sunday, as will be the case in October 2023.

The solemn Jubilee opening will take place on Sunday, 13 March 2022 with a Eucharistic celebration in the monastery church of St. Teresa of Jesus. It will be directly transmitted by Spanish television. A decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary

confirms that the above church of the Saint will be the official Jubilee Church where it will be possible to gain a Plenary Indulgence with fulfilment of the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father).

## FATHER GENERAL VISITS THE HOLY LAND

**O**ur General, Fr. Miguel Marquez, paid a fraternal visit to the Carmelites in the Holy Land from 19 January until 2 February 2022. Going back to a General Chapter of 1632, there is a tradition that Fr. General is also the Prior of Mount Carmel. This tradition is also noted in no.193 of our Applicative Norms.

In his own words, Fr. Miguel went to the Holy Land as a “Pilgrim General”. He wanted to visit Israel and Palestine to meet our friars and nuns, to see and hear at first hand about their lives there. His programme included the Pastoral

Visitation of our friars in the Stella Maris monastery (Haifa), plus fraternal visits to the friars of St. Joseph’s Parish in Haifa and to the four communities of Carmelite nuns in the Holy Land (Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Haifa). Other Carmelite Congregations and lay people associated with our spirituality and our family were not forgotten either. The General was also able to meet the Patriarch, Mons. Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

His visit concluded on 2 February, Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple and World Day for Consecrated Life.

## SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF CARMELITE SUPERIORS OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

(Senegal, 24-28 January 2022)

**T**he Conference of Carmelite Superiors of Francophone Africa and Madagascar held a meeting in Dakar from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January. Eleven representatives from

5 of the 6 Circumscriptions of our Conference – Congo, Cameroon, Central Africa, West Africa and Senegal – were in attendance. The Madagascar Commissariate was excused.

In his message to the Assembly, Fr. General encouraged us to deepen our spirit of fraternity and collaboration. Our discussions concentrated on the following themes: co-operation in formation (initial and that of formators and superiors); the intensification of interchanges with the Circumscriptions of Anglophone Africa; the second annual noviciate (which will be held this time around at Kinshasa in Congo-DRC); the Congresses of the Carmelite Family in Africa; the publication of

literature adapted to the needs of our Circumscriptions.

A rest day provided the opportunity of visiting the Island of Goree, near Dakar, from where thousands of slaves departed for the Americas. The majority of our participants at the Assembly had either arrived early for our meeting or prolonged their stay. This allowed them to visit our Sisters in Sebikotane, the Benedictine Abbey of Keur Moussa or the Carmelite Community of Ndiaffate, 200 Kilometres from Dakar.

## NEWS FROM THE CARMELITE NUNS IN TONGA

**O**n Saturday 15 January, the eruption of an under-water volcano near Tonga caused tsunamis in various islands of the South Pacific Ocean. Sea levels rose along the coast of Peru and the Pacific coasts of the United States, while tsunamis and evacuations were reported in Japan. Nearly two islands were completely destroyed and there are no longer any houses left on them. Fortunately, God protected Tonga itself. Although the eruption was massive, only three persons died. It could have been so much worse. The Carmelite family has a presence in that part of the world. Our Carmelite nuns in Tonga are safe and well. As they have reported, it was a horrific and

frightening experience, but they were sure that God would have protected them. They were aware of the prayers of all their brothers and sisters for them. When the volcano erupted, the convent was violently shaken. A few hours later, everything was hidden by clouds and then ash began to fill the air and fall on the roof like hailstones. The sisters climbed on to the roof to remove the thick ash while members of OCDS and parishioners came to assist in cleaning the whole monastery. The only remaining problem was lack of fresh water as the ash had contaminated everything. Thanks be to God, Australia and New Zealand sent them drinking water.

# LA OBRA MAXIMA: DEVELOPMENT AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Ever since Fr. Juan Vicente Zengotita, OCD, launched *La Obra Maxima* in January 1921, there have been continuing changes both in its format and content. Thanks to the collaboration of so many Discalced Carmelites, the review has become the mouthpiece of our missionaries. Through their writing and witness, we have been made aware of the difficulties and challenges, not only of their communities and their work, but indeed of the life of the whole Church.

*Obra Maxima* was begun by the Carmelite Province of Navarre with an edition in Spanish. Inevitably then, many communities of the Order that do not understand Spanish were unable to avail of the news published in it. Due to this, the current director, Fr. Jon Korta, OCD,

has launched two international editions, one in English and another in French. As a result of quite a few years of work and organization, both these editions were issued in January 2022, thanks to a group of collaborators and translators. Under Fr. Jon's direction, the review is now available for and can reach more communities of the Order.

It is essential that the whole Order should be aware of these projects and supportive of them. They are inherent to our Carmelite culture, especially as they seek to promote the life and witness of those Discalced Carmelite friars who proclaim the Gospel of God in missionary lands.

<https://www.laobramaxima.es>

## CARMELITE NEWS FROM GONZAGUE- VILLE (Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

This year St. Joseph's Monastery has 16 friars from Togo, Burkina and the Ivory Coast. They are involved in Parochial ministry, studies, teaching and spiritual accompaniment. Their daily programmes revolve around prayer, liturgy, recreation and various other community activities that reinforce their family spirit.

On Saturday, 11 December 2021, the friars shared a day of spiritual renewal

with members of the OCDS and with other religious and lay congregations affiliated to our Order. There was the double objective of preparing for the feast of St. John of the Cross and for the Christmas festivities.

The eventual Christmas celebrations were well attended by the faithful. In a gesture of welcome for the New Year 2022 with renewed gratitude, the whole parish gathered in a huge field

to share the Christmas Vigil of 2021 in adoration, praise and prayer.

On Monday, 27 December 2021, our community had a recreational outing to the beach at Assinie (Abidjan). Our

reciprocal enjoyment of the occasion strengthened our spirit of brotherhood and reminded us that we too, as a community, are part of God's garden where He takes His delight.

## NEWS FROM KOREA

**B**r. Mary-Dominic Savio, OCD, was ordained a priest on 11 February. He was born at Naju-si (Korea) in 1986 and made his First Profession as a Carmelite in 2015. He studied at the Teresianum in Rome

Fr. Mary-Dominic's family, the Carmelite

community and OCDS members attended the Ordination ceremony at which Monsignor Peter Chung, OCD, Archbishop of Seoul, presided. You are kindly asked to keep Fr. Mary-Dominic Savio in your prayers.