



Inauguration of the Teresian Jubilee

13-02-2022

Avila

The opening of the Holy Door on Sunday, March the 13th, by the Bishop of Avila, Msgr. José María Gil Tamayo, marked the beginning of the Jubilee Year. The church of the La Santa Monastery is the church of the Jubilee. The faithful looked on with great devotion. Next to the bishop were representatives of civil, religious, university, military and police authorities. The event was broadcast by Spanish television TVE 2.

The Bishop of Avila was accompanied by Father Antonio Ángel Sánchez, OCD, Provincial of the Iberian Province, and Father David Jiménez, OCD, Prior of the La Santa monastery. The City of Avila Band accompanied the opening of the Holy Door by playing the National Anthem. The Mass was accompanied by the *La Santa Gregorian Choir* and the procession through the city, after the Eucharist, was accompanied by the *El Amarrao* band of trumpets and drums.

Alba de Tormes

The church of the Annunciation of Alba de Tormes was crowded for the celebrations on this day. The Bishop of Salamanca, Msgr. José Luis Retana,

presided over his first Pontifical Mass in the Church of the Annunciation.

The Discalced Carmelite Order, in collaboration with the Municipality of Alba de Tormes, organized an exhibition «*Teresa de Jesus: Woman, Saint, Doctor*». It was inaugurated on March 28, the day of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila. The exhibition aims to explore these three aspects of the Saint. It will be open to the public until October 22, 2022, in the church of the Monastery of the Annunciation, where Teresa died in 1582 and where her tomb has been venerated ever since.

Rome

The Mass for the 400th anniversary of the canonization of Saints Isidore the Farmer, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Jesus and Philip Neri was celebrated in the church of the Gesù in the presence of Pope Francis. For health reasons, he could not preside over the celebration. Jesuits, Carmelites, Oratorians and members of the Diocese of Madrid gathered to celebrate this great event. Here is a passage from the Pope's homily:

«*One of the great tragedies of our time is the refusal to open our eyes to reality and*

instead to look the other way. Saint Teresa helps us to move beyond ourselves, to go up the mountain with the Lord, to realize that Jesus also reveals himself through the wounds of our brothers and sisters, the struggles of humanity, and the signs of the times. Do not be afraid to touch those wounds: they are the wounds of the Lord».

CITeS (Avila)

From March 11 to 13, a series of discussionss were held on «Holiness, Mission and Experience of God» on the occasion of the fourth centenary of the canonization of Saints Isidore the Farmer, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis

Xavier, Teresa of Jesus and Philip Neri. This canonization was a true spiritual renewal for the Church and for the whole of Western society.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Bishop of Avila, Fr José María Gil Tamayo, the Mayor of Avila, Mr Jesús Manuel Sánchez Cabrera, the Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Canon Law of the Pontifical University of Comillas, Father Francisco Ramírez, and the two directors of the symposium: Fathers Fernando Millán and Francisco Javier Sancho Fermín. The topics covered concerned the experience of God, the mission and the charism at the service of the Church for each of these figures.

Visit of Father General to the Shrine of Saint Teresa of Los Andes (Chile)

On Sunday, February 20, the community of the Shrine of Santa Teresa of Los Andes was celebrating the visit of Father Miguel Márquez. This coincided with the visit of the Animator General of the Sisters, Sister María José Gay. Both came on pilgrimage from Rome, accompanied respectively by Father Martin Martinez and Sister Maria Teresa Garcia. It should be noted that the Order of Discalced Carmelites and the Teresian Carmelite Missionary Sisters are responsible for the pastoral care of the Shrine, in collaboration with the community of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, to whom Saint Teresa of Los Andes belonged.

The Eucharist on the seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time was presided over by Father Miguel, concelebrated with Father Rodrigo Segura, Provincial and present Rector of the Shrine, and by several Discalced Carmelite friars. In his homily, Father Miguel emphasized that we are all searching for that love of God that sets life on fire; often it is there without our realizing how rich we are, what treasure there is in each one of us, and we let it go unnoticed. He also meditated on the living love that is present in the Shrine, a fire that burns and that must inflame us, through the intercession of Saint Teresa of Los Andes. We are invited to discover the presence of a God who touches hearts

and makes us fall in love with him every day.

At the end of the Eucharist, we all went to

the tomb of Saint Teresa of Los Andes to leave there all of our intentions and those of the pilgrims.

News from the Secular Carmel in Ukraine

From Verinica Zuieva, OCDS in Kiev

I would like to share with you the current situation of our OCDS communities in Ukraine. There are 46 of us who want to live by Carmelite spirituality. But first, let's make a brief history of Secular Carmel in our Eastern European land.

On the outskirts of the ancient city of **Kiev** is the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: it is here that the Carmelite Fathers began their mission after the communist period. In October 1994, the first community of the Secular Carmel «of the Guardian Angels» was founded. Today the Kiev community has 18 members. In February 2003, in the city of **Khmelnysky**, the community «Mary, Mother of God of Grace» was formed with the support of the Carmelite Fathers. It consists of 14 members. In the city of **Berdychiv**, in the shadow of the image of St. Mary of the Scapular, in autumn 2014 the community of the «Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary» was formed. It has 8 members. The youngest community is currently in **Kharkiv**. It was born in January 2020 and is called «Infant Jesus of Prague».

Today, in these times of war, the period is difficult for all communities and for

all our families. We are trying to stay in touch with each other. At the moment, only one member of the **Kharkiv** community remains in this destroyed city. When electricity and food ran out and the heating stopped, he took refuge in a bunker near a parish. Members of the **Berdychiv** community remained in their homes, as the city had not yet been bombed. Everyone helps each other as much as they can: some welcome refugees from the east of the country, others prepare military nets or sew clothes for the soldiers and defenders of the city, others work as volunteers. In **Khmelnysky**, members of the community live locked in their homes. Around **Kiev**, many places were razed to the ground and destroyed. Civilian homes were ruthlessly destroyed. Four OCDS people remained in Kiev.

Let us entrust our lives into the hands of the Lord and his Divine Mercy. In a very special way, we find refuge in the great protector of Carmel, St. Joseph. All our communities pray to this great saint, remembering what our holy mother Teresa of Jesus said about him. We also ask you to pray to St. Joseph for peace in Ukraine.

Welcoming Ukraine refugees to the OCD monastery in Snagov, Romania

In our Snagov monastery in Romania reside Fr. Antonio Prestino, Fr. Marco Secchi, Fr. Mihai Lauș Fr. Tarcisio Favaro, from the Venice Province. Together with them are members of the Carmelite Ecclesial Movement. Since March 9, they have been joined by three postulants of the Venetian Province.

From 24th of February, they began to prepare, from what they had, places to welcome refugees who might arrive: cleaning, cars, kitchen, translators, etc. but also trips to the border (4 hours by car) to take refugees in need of assistance. The first to arrive were foreign students who attended Ukrainian universities: they had to return to their countries of origin (Morocco, Egypt, Kazakhstan ...). Then there were Ukrainian mothers (or other nationalities) who fled with their children, some foreign families who were returning to their homeland with their children.

Then there followed a great deal of phone calls to coordinate: cars to take

to the station or airport, alarm clocks to wake you up in the night to pick up or take someone else, prepare kitchens and cleaning to put things in order, medicines, laundry, embassies, etc. It is a fast, short, but necessary hospitality so that, at least for now, everyone has a clear destination. Currently the house of spirituality in Snagov hosts about forty fleeing Ukrainians.

After a tour of the borders with Ukraine, Vito d'Ettorre, a journalist of TV2000, visited the centre to document the activity of the Carmelites, and he shared with us his impressions: *«Romania has found itself as the “Lampedusa of Europe”, the reception is organized everywhere, even to private homes and monasteries. The experience at the Carmel of Snagov is beautiful. I first interviewed a lady fleeing Ukraine: as soon as she arrived here, she entered the church, and she shouted loudly, Lord, give us peace! Those who are on the run need to find spirituality more than bread, as happens in this Shrine».*

OCDS Presence in Senegal

At the end of the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the Teresian Carmelite Order, the OCDS in Senegal was born in Dakar on November 18, 2019. On this occasion, the Carmelite friars met Véronique Lukelo, OCDS from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and

asked her to give witness to her journey of more than 20 years with her husband within the Secular Carmel. Her testimony was a motivation for Michelle and André, who later asked the Carmelites to create a branch of the secular order in Senegal. The first meeting took place

in Dakar on the second of March, 2020. On December 08, 2020, André and Michelle entered formation and made their first promises on 05 December, 2021. The group now has 10 members: two temporary professed, three in the first year of formation, three women in formation and a couple of perpetually

professed (from the Democratic Republic of Congo, living in Dakar).

St. John of the Cross is the patron saint of the group. The same group promotes devotion to the scapular in Senegal, organizes monthly meetings on the first Saturday and the annual retreat, and the patronal feast every December 14.

News from Madagascar (first quarter 2022)

In addition to our Carmelite annual retreat and the sports meeting between priests and students that usually concludes this beautiful fraternal time, this new year of 2022 began with the grace of the solemn profession of three brothers and their ordination to the Diaconate. Since the covid crisis has calmed down somewhat, the State has authorized the opening of churches and celebrations without too many restrictions. It was nice to see the friars' families again and enjoy meeting them once more after after months of silence and distance. We are slowly coming out of the Indian

Ocean's cyclonic period. A time of grace for some desert or semi-desert regions, but for the majority, it is the annual nightmare. This time, two intense tropical cyclones caused a lot of damage in Madagascar (Batsirai and Emnati), as well as a moderate tropical storm, the first of this year. We are still assessing the damage, both human and material. For us, it is the monastery in Manakara, on the east coast of the island (usually the most affected), which suffered greatly from the passage of these cyclones, particularly with the collapse of a part of the wall.

The Carmel of Koteswar (India) celebrates the feast of the Child Jesus

The feast of the Child Jesus was beautifully celebrated at the Carmel of Koteswar (Kundapur, India). The faithful gathered to listen to Brother Prakash and his team preach the preparatory triduum for the feast.

On February 26, at 5 p.m., Praveen Frank, Regional Vicar of the Carmelite Mission in Tanzania, celebrated the Eucharist and gave the homily. Father Prakash D'Souza, at the end of the three-day retreat, led the hour of adoration before the solemn Mass.

He later warmly thanked all the benefactors who made such a beautiful celebration possible. Father Alwyn Sequeira, Superior of the Carmelite Monastery, thanked all the participants for their generous collaboration in making the triduum a success. Father Deep Fernandes prepared the liturgy and Father Alwyn conducted the choir. About 20 diocesan priests and

religious participated in the Eucharist. Previously, Father Prakash D'Cunha, Provincial Councilor, had inaugurated the new hall and guest room. Father Archiebald Gonsalves, a former Carmelite Provincial, blessed the new building. After the Mass, a festive meal was held at which all those present attended.