



Assembly of the OCD Major Superiors of Europe and the Middle East

The assembly of the Major Superiors of the Discalced Carmel in Europe and the Middle East was celebrated in Lisieux (France) from 30th May to 3rd June, 2022. Twenty-one friars were able to take part in the meeting. Father General, Fr. Miguel Marquez, and the two Definitors responsible for Europe, Fr. Roberto Maria Pirastu and Fr. Christophe-Marie Baudouin, were present.

The session was dedicated to updating the statutes of the Conference, collaboration in formation in Europe,

including the question of the second novitiate, the European meeting of Carmelite students and the World Youth Days to be held in Lisbon in 2023.

A new President of the Conference was also elected: Father Fausto Lincio, of the Province of Lombardy.

The period spent in Lisieux was an opportunity for the friars to visit the places linked to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in particular the Carmel, the family home of Les Buissonnets and the Basilica.

South Brazil: General Pastoral Visit to the Province of Blessed Mary of Mount Carmel

Father General, Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle, visited the Province of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (southern Brazil). This trip of Father General to Brazil was part of the General Pastoral Visit, carried out from 25th April to 28th May, by the Definitor, Fr. Martín

Martínez Larios.

Father General met with the friars in an assembly to reflect on the strengths, weaknesses and possibilities of the presence of the Carmelites in this region. In addition, he took part in a meeting with the Secular Carmel and one with

the Federation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel of the Carmelite Nuns. They were intense days of reflection, study, sharing and fraternal conviviality. The visit allowed us to become aware

that we cannot walk alone, because a Carmelite lives his vocation well only in communion with his confreres and his sisters.

Sweden: Cardinal Anders Arborelius, OCD, receives a Medal from the King of Sweden

On Friday, June 10, our confrere Cardinal Anders Arborelius, OCD, received from His Majesty, the King of Sweden, the medal of the ribbon of the Order of Seraphim, 12th degree, for his significant contributions to the life of the Swedish and international Church. The medal ceremony took place at the Royal Palace in Stockholm. We congratulate our confrere for this award! In an interview with the directors of the European cultural magazines of the Jesuit Order on May 19 and published in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, the Pope cited our confrere as an example. To the question «do we evangelize in a culture that has no

religious tradition», such as Sweden, Pope Francis referred to our confrere:

“I don’t know how to answer your question, to tell you the truth. Because only those who live there, in that context, can understand and discover the right paths. I would like to point out, however, a man who is a model of guidance, Cardinal Anders Arborelius. He is not afraid of anything. He talks to everybody and is not against anybody. He always aims for the positive. I believe that a person like him can indicate the right path to follow.”

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/pope-francis-in-conversation-european-jesuit-journals/>

Vietnam: Foundation of St Joseph’s monastery at Kon Tum

A new monastery of Discalced Carmelite nuns was founded in the central highlands of Vietnam. On June 7, Bishop Aloisius Nguyen Hung officially founded the Monastery of St. Joseph in the city of Kon Tum. A great

multitude gathered for the occasion. Msgr. Nguyen Hung expressed his deep gratitude to God for this foundation. He emphasized the crucial role of prayer in the life of faith of Christians: “a life of continuous prayer and silent sacrifice are

like lungs that infuse God's blessings on the diocese of Kon Tum".

The new monastery consists of 11 solemnly professed nuns and 4 novices. They come from Saigon Monastery.

Since the first Discalced Carmelites from France arrived in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in 1862, Vietnam has 11 monasteries with about 300 members.

Philippines: Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Carmelite presence

As the Universal Church celebrated the solemnity of Pentecost last June 6, the Province of St. Teresa of Jesus gratefully held its 75th anniversary of the Carmelite presence in the Philippines.

It all started in 1947, with the overflow of contemplation expressed in an ardent missionary zeal of 6 brave friars from the Washington Province. They labored in the most "forsaken parishes" of the prelature of Infanta. After some time, the apostolic nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, made an appeal to the Superior General of the Discalced Carmelite, Fr. Silverio de Santa Teresa, asking the Carmelite friars to make another foundation in the Philippines. It was made possible through the acceptance of the Anglo-Irish Province by sending 3 friars. These three Irish Carmelites started the foundation at the heart of the country, primarily working with the Carmelite nuns and the Secular Carmelites and were engaged in the retreat apostolates. These two groups of Carmelite

missionaries tilled together the spiritual ground.

Their labor and sacrifice have become the focal point of the celebration. In Bacolod City, a Triduum Mass focusing on the importance of mission in the Church was held. It concluded with a procession honoring the saints of the Discalced Carmelite Order. In Manila and other houses, a video commemorating the American mission was made and played after the mass. The celebration culminated with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Junjun Agruda, OCD together with the friars from different houses, and a thanksgiving message given by the Provincial, Fr. Danilo Lim, OCD.

Today the Philippine Province is consist of forty-nine solemn professed friars, 17 student friars, 9 novices, and 8 postulants. Now, with gratitude and zeal, the Province continues the story started by the fruit of the prayer of our holy parents, St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, and its actualization by the American and Irish missionaries.

India: Second Novitiate Course 2022

The second novitiate course of the year 2022, organized in Pushpadaan (Calicut), the theme of which was “With Empty Hands”, has just ended. The participants came from 7 provinces: 9 from Manjummel; 2 from South Kerala; 6 from Malabar; 3 from Delhi; 6 from Andhra Pradesh; 5 from Karnataka-Goa; 3 from Tamil Nadu. Fr. Antony Ittikunnath was the coordinator of this session. Specialists from different fields gave lectures on various topics related to religious and Carmelite life. The course was solemnly inaugurated by Father Thomas Marottikaparambil OCD, Provincial of the Province of Manjummel, on April 3, 2022, in the presence of the 34 friars. Once a week, the friars met in groups to discuss topics based on the spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux. On Sundays,

the brothers had the opportunity to go for outing. On some days, the brothers showed their talents by doing manual and gardening work, followed by sports activities. Every Thursday, the friars carried out housework during the day and gathered in the evening for fraternal meals. We could also use the multimedia conference room to watch edifying films and short films made by our brothers. A regular confessor from outside the community had been appointed, but the friars were free to turn to any priest in the community for confession and spiritual guidance. Every Saturday evening, the friars animated Eucharistic adoration and vespers. The session ended with a week-long retreat preached by Father Augustine Steejen, OCD. It officially ended on May 15, 2022.

Burundi-Rwanda: *Laudato si'* session: an experience of “everything is connected” and contemplation

From Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 of May 2022, the Community of Discalced Carmelites of Gitega hosted about fifty young people studying in secondary and university institutes in the cities of Bujumbura and Gitega. They came to live together an experience of prayer, study and contemplation, on the occasion of the session that

promoted the protection of creation in these days in which the 7th anniversary of the encyclical letter “*Laudato si'*” of Pope Francis is commemorated. The aim was to raise public awareness of the urgency of protecting and promoting the environment following the Stockholm Convention (1972), the Rio Declaration (1992), the Convention on Biological

Diversity (1993), the Johannesburg Declaration (2002), the Encyclical Letter “Laudato si” (2015). This session is part of a continuous effort to achieve a state of spirit and operational programs that take into account the environmental imperative, if we do not want to be guilty of having hindered the flow of life in all living beings.

The Community of Carmelites of Gitega is financially supported by the Diocese of Stockholm (Sweden), which we thank from the bottom of our hearts. We are also grateful to the Definitor General of the Order, Father Jean-Baptiste Pagabeleguem, who took part in the entire session.