



## Lisieux (Francia): pilgrimage of the Carmelite family

**S**aturday October 1<sup>st</sup>, the entire Carmelite family of the Paris province held a reunion in Lisieux for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. In the context of the general pastoral visitation of the father General, fr. Miguel Marquez Calle and fr. Roberto Maria Pirastu, definitor, participated in the meeting.

Around 160 persons, among friars, secular Carmelites and nuns of the Carmelite spirituality, reunited around Saint Therese and were welcomed by the Discalced Carmelite nuns of Lisieux. Father General spoke of the importance of the doctorate of Therese in “science of love”: “*The doctorate of Therese allows*

*us to state that her doctrine contains a word about God and about the human being that is beautiful not only for the believers, but also for modern day society (...). The wisdom of Therese can help us to rediscover the Gospel, to overcome our situation of spiritual stagnation, to live the Word of Jesus like a liberating strength”.*

Along with Sunday’s holy mass presided by Mons. Habert, bishop of Bayeux-Lisieux, and the procession of the relics, the most important moments were the prayer time and the encounter with father General with the secular Carmelites and with all the friars.

## News of the inauguration of DIGICARMEL

**S**tarting on October 15<sup>th</sup> the digital project of “Digicarmel” has been open to the public ([www.digicarmel.com](http://www.digicarmel.com)): we discover it with P. Angelo Lanfranchi, General house of the Order archivist.

*Fr. Angelo, what is Digicarmel?*

Digicarmel is much more than a simple web page: it’s an online database created to manage all of the actual and historic information of the entire Order.

### ***Why was Digicarmel created?***

Carmel has a long and rich history, with ecclesiastical expressions and spiritual dimensions, apostolic, cultural and artistic of an incredible complexity. To preserve and to share this history and our treasures of life and spirituality is a duty that the wide extension of the Carmelite family and the large number of events that happen year after year make it ever more difficult to handle. Acknowledging this challenge, we have thought of a new way of work that allows us to make use of the new technological means to organize the information in an versatile, dynamic, unified and share friendly way.

### ***What advantages are available in the use of Digicarmel?***

Digicarmel is a flexible and solid platform, capable of registrations, joining and making immediately available information and material that have been already produced and treated commonly in each house and province of the Order, archives, magazines and Carmelite publishing houses, other organisms and research... Gathering all of this material in one place will multiply the efficiency and utility of the work undertaken of all in research of the information, avoiding useless dispersion of resources.

### ***How is the complex information organized in Digicarmel?***

The principal area, the “heart” of all the database, is a digital version of the

work until now present in *Conspectus*, and *Acta Ordinis* and previous historical publications that had the goal of preserving and sharing the principal facts relative to the Order, its persons, houses, circumscriptions and other correlated realities and initiatives.

This section is the backbone of our database. In it are reunited the *Digital Carmelite Library (BCD Bibliotheca Carmelitana Digitalis)*, a complete and proper Carmelite library that reunites in a digital format, freely researchable, many books and articles of Carmelite topics in many languages. Till this day 5 magazines in Italian, Spanish and Portuguese have been entirely incorporated in the BCD with more than 2,500 articles available, along with 80 monographies regarding the institutional history of the Order, among those are the nearly entire publication of the *Istituto Storico Teresiano (HT)*. The library is in continuous growth thanks to the cooperation with Carmelite publishing houses and magazines.

The BCD allows you to find in just one platform material that to this day were difficult to access and to make research on them thru the OCR technology of a specific word within the text of all the documents available within our library. The third section of Digicarmel, still as a work in progress, is the *Archivum Carmelitanum Digitale (ACD)*, a true and proper digital archive of the Order were each carmelite archive would be able to share on line -if so desired- specific material. In the Generalate’s archive we have begun recently a rich project of digitalizing of a section of the mission’s archive, that in a few months shall enter

as a part of the ACD and will allow to know much more original documents about our rich missionary history from the sixteenth century on forward. We hope that other Carmelite archives may soon use this instrument in the service of the Order, so as to better preserve and share the charisma made history.

Let's remember that the software is capable of handling even the images archive: one of our next projects shall be to make a catalogue and publication of the rich photographic stock preserved in the Generalate's archive, and a virtual museum, that in principle may embrace the entire artistic patrimony of the Order.

Digicarmel finds itself in a developing process and thus can't be considered as a "closed" archive. Given the great amount of information, it isn't a database "complete" of all the institutional history of the Order, but it is now sufficiently mature in order to make it available to Carmelite public in general, while we

continue to enrich its diverse sections. We value the feedback of the users in order to make better this resource in the service of our Carmelite family.

### *Who can be interested in Digicarmel?*

The people that maybe be interest are double: for those who grant information and for those who search for it. In this sense Digicarmel is of great interest for researchers, publication houses, magazines and Carmelite archives that wish to insert their own material in the database to better make known their own documentation, but it is also indispensable for all who want to know in a more deeper way Carmel in its history, charisma, persons and institutions.

For contact with those responsible of the project with whatever question o proposal of participation, you can write to the mail: [digicarmel@ocdcuria.org](mailto:digicarmel@ocdcuria.org).

## **Salamanca (Spain): commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Saint Teresa of Avila's doctorate**

**O**n October 6<sup>th</sup>, the University of Salamanca commemorated the centenary of the concession of the Doctorate honoris causa of saint Teresa of Jesus. A commemorated celebration was organized regarding the "most important woman of Spanish history for her international influence and her intellectual capacity". The

celebration began with a gathering of academics around 70 doctors PHD of the university and 20 discaled Carmelite friars. During the celebration it was remembered that on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1922 Teresa Cepeda and Ahumada was honored along with the Spanish scholars for her shared culture, literary qualities, spirituality and reformistic values.

## **Spain: Saturday October 15th, inauguration of the Teresian Jubilar year**

In Alba de Tormes, the Teresian Jubilar Year was solemnly inaugurated in the presence of a great multitude. It will last till October 15<sup>th</sup> 2023. The prior bishop, Mons. Carlos López, had the honor of opening the holy door. Father Miguel Ángel González read the papal decree. Ad Avila, the jubilar year was opened

with a Holy Mass in the cathedral at 11:00 a.m. The previous day, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> in the Basilica of saint Teresa, the statute of the saint was solemnly transferred to the Cathedral. From there after Saturday's eucharist, was carried in a procession thru the streets of Avila along with the image of the Madonna of charity, till returning to the Basilica. From there in the evening, one of the most heartfelt moments took place: the farewell of saint Teresa to our Lady. This moment wasn't held since 2019 due to the pandemic.

## **Congo: plenary Council of the saint Josef commiserate**

**T**he Saint Josef Commiserate of Congo celebrated from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> till Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of September. It was chaired by father General Miguel Marquez, along with two definitors in charge of Africa and Madagascar, fathers Jean-Baptiste Pagabeleguem and Philbert Namphande.

During the inaugural session, the father Commiserate Albert praised the efforts accomplished by the friars in the last years after the establishment of the Congo Commiserate. Our Father General, afterwards, expressed his joy of finding himself in Congo for the first time and stated that he was here in order to listen, learn and get to know the reality and challenges of the Congo Carmelites. This first day has been dedicated to the

presentation of our eight communities. The second day we shared all of what we listened in the previous presentations. Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>, we listened the report of the commiserate bursar of the economic situation of the Congo Commiserate and then that of the initial formation. At the ending of the Plenary Council, father General encouraged us to a deeper communication and cooperation among the communities as well as with the nuns and secular order.

Father General, along with both Definitors and father Commiserate paid a visit on Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> to the Archbishop Fridolin cardinal Ambongo, Archbishop of Metropolitan Kinshasa, and the Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Apostolic Nuncio of the RDC.

# Teresianum: inauguration of the academic year of 2022-2023

**F**riday October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Teresianum celebrated the inauguration of the new academic year. The eucharistic celebration was held by S.Emza. Cardinal Kurt Koch, director of the Dicasterium for the promotion of the unity of Christians.

After this first liturgical moment, the academic act took place, divided in a first moment in which fr. Christof Betschart, OCD, preside of the Pontifical University, presented his briefing of the academic year 2021-2022. The second moment of the academic act was the presentation held by his Emza. Cardinal Kurt Koch, regarding the topic *“The prayer as the soul of the theology. Regarding the relation between theological reflection and spiritual praxis”*.

The inauguration was ended with refreshments in the cloister of the Teresianum.

Beginning of the web site of the University: <https://www.teresianum.net>  
Some weeks before, the web site of the university has been enriched with a new resource: the institutional repositorium. The goal is that of preserving in one online space the scientific production of the University and of its members. The repositorium es accessible on the official web: <https://repository.teresianum.net> and is continuously supplied with new attachments.

Along with the scientific and divulgatory works of the professors of the university, the platform gathers some of our principal magazines, completely consultable online, in particular the *Teresianum* magazine and the *Fiamma Viva*. Another important section of the repositorium is the one of the doctoral dissertations discussed in the university, made available.

## Burundi: solemn professions of three friars

**S**aturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2022, in the spiritual center of Mary Queen of Carmel of Gitega, three disalced Carmelite friars, have made their solemn profession: these are friar Anatole of the Divine Mercy, Emmanuel of the Holy Trinity and Marius of the Eucharist. All

three of them have done their formation of Carmelite second novitiate in Kinshasa, in the RDC, from July to September 2022. They prepared themselves with spiritual exercises preached by the Rector of the Marian Sanctuary of Mugera, Rev. Venant Mpozako.

The eucharist celebration in which the solemn profession took place was headed by Mons. Blaise Nzeyimana, bishop of Ruyigi and representative of the Episcopal Conference of Burundi of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic life. Mons. Blaise underlined the joy of celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of canonization of Saint Teresa of Jesus, on march 12<sup>th</sup> 1622 and

the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of her proclamation as the first female Church Doctor. He also expressed his recognition on behalf of the bishops of the spiritual apostolate of the discalced Carmelites of Burundi and Ruanda, inviting them to be faithful to their charisma. This is the desire of all the Cristian community of Burundi and Ruanda, theme of prayer and blessing of the bishops.

## Holy Land: 150th anniversary of the foundation of Carmel in Jerusalem

**S**aturday October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Carmelites of Pater Noster, on the top of Mount Olives, celebrated the feast of saint Teresa of Avila.

The celebration, held by Most Reverend Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Pierbattista Pizzaballa, has signaled also the inauguration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Carmel, established on 1873 by the French Carmelites (the

anniversary will be officially celebrated next year, in 2023). For this occasion, the lay people and guests have had the possibility of visiting the Carmelite cloister, a beautiful place normally accessible only to the nuns, where they have been warmly greeted by the discalced Carmelites and volunteers after the holy mass.