



Anniversaries related to Saint Therese of Lisieux

During this six-year period (2021-2027) we shall celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thérèse of the Child Jesus (2023) and the first centenary of her canonization (2025). The 2021 General Chapter decided to propose to the Order a cycle of reading the writings of Saint Teresa. A programme of reading and reflection on the writings of Thérèse de Lisieux has now been drawn up. Every year you will be offered 8 selected texts, accompanied by a brief comment and some questions. At the beginning of each month, the worksheets will be made available to you on the website of the General Curia. Currently you will find the following worksheets on our website:

Presentation Worksheet: Reading the writing of Therese of the Child Jesus:

<https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/documents/reading-and-reflection/presentation-reading-the-writings-of-therese-of-the-child-jesus/>

[entation-reading-the-writings-of-therese-of-the-child-jesus/](https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/documents/reading-and-reflection/study-guide-1-reading-of-the-writings-of-therese-of-the-child-jesus/)

Worksheet 1: Singing the mercies of the Lord (Ms A, 2r-4r):

<https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/documents/reading-and-reflection/study-guide-1-reading-of-the-writings-of-therese-of-the-child-jesus/>

As well, between the 10th and the 15th of each month, we shall offer you an accompanying video on our YouTube channel (**OCD Curia**). Each video will correspond to the relative worksheet for the appropriate month in the series and will be prepared by one of the Order's circumscriptions. In this manner, we shall be able to understand how Therese of Lisieux is being listened to and read in the four corners of the world. The first video is already available:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qza-V0MsYdXo>

Federal Assembly of the Carmelite Nuns of Our Lady of the Isles (Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar)

The Assembly of the Carmelite Nuns of Our Lady of the Isles was held from Monday 14 to Tuesday 22 November 2022 at Antsirabé (Madagascar), at the Spiritual Center of Notre Dame du Fiat.

The Assembly began with a session held by Father Jérôme Paluku, ocd (Secretary for Missionary Cooperation) for the bursars and the Prior on the management of community goods. The excellent pedagogy of the lecturer and the sharing in groups made it possible to quickly discover the keys to good management. Father Michel ocd, assistant of the Federation, spoke to us about St Teresa of Avila's idea of what the Prioress should be as well as discernment in the use of the means of communication in the

contemplative life. Afterwards elections were held. Sister Marie-Yolaine Dehal of the Carmelite monastery of Notre Dame du Grand Large, on the island of Réunion, has been re-elected for a new three-year term.

The typical joy of the sons and daughters of Saint Teresa was manifested in the fraternal atmosphere of the meeting, with dances and moments of recreation. Three bishops highlighted the Assembly by their visit and their sharing. We received their blessings with gratitude! This anthology of graces was extended with the visit of the site of the first foundation of the Carmelite Nuns in Madagascar, today in the possession of the Salesian Fathers.

News from the Friars in Madagascar

In November, last year, the treasurers of the monasteries of our nuns together with the prioresses had the joy of following a time of formation, as well as the election of the President of the Association of Monasteries of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Indian Ocean, together with its Council.

The friars resumed the «Carmelite days»: a day of retreat and formation offered

once a month. It is addressed above all to the members of the great Carmelite family, without excluding all those who might want to participate. That year we chose to deepen knowledge of the person and message of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. From the number of participants in the first two days, we can see a true thirst for our spirituality and for that of Saint Therese.

To continue to nourish an increasing fraternal communion among the Friars, especially among the young, but also for our ongoing formation, a trip to some place on our great island is organized

every year. This time we went to the north-eastern part of Madagascar. Obviously, they were a few days of beautiful fraternal sharing.

News from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

From Saturday 31st of December 2022 to Tuesday January 10th 2023, the Secretary for Missionary Co-operation, Father Jérôme Paluku, stayed in Goma, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The aim was to promote a socio-cultural centre in the region that will aim to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts through socio-cultural and sports activities. It was an opportunity to get in touch with the complex reality of the region.

A few kilometers from Goma International Airport, on the road leading to the territory of Rutshuru, can be seen small shelters made from tarpaulins. The more you go on, the more numerous these makeshift shelters become. In Kanyarucinya, six kilometers away, the situation is unimaginable: there are macabre scenes that cannot be described. More than 53,000 people, displaced by war, forgotten by everyone and ignored by all, live in makeshift shelters: under tarpaulins, straw shelters or just a mosquito net, exposed to all kinds of bad weather. This situation is due to the war between a terrorist group called M23 (March 23 Movement - supported by the Rwandan army according to numerous UN reports) and the Armed Forces of the

Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), the national army.

Several massacres of civilians have been perpetrated in the region. Also in Mungote, in the town of Kitshanga, in the territory of Masisi, several people who escaped the massacre of Kishishe on November 29 are crammed into makeshift shelters. According to a preliminary UN investigation, at least 131 civilians were executed by the Rwanda-backed M23 that day. The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo speaks of 273 people massacred. The group and its allies are also accused of raping, kidnapping and looting civilians. In short, cruelty has reached its peak.

It is in this environment that our Carmelite friars work in the city of Goma. As you can imagine, it is not easy for them to see and experience the horrors of this unspeakable war far from the attention of international leaders. What can we say about all these displaced and forgotten populations? It is not uncommon to hear complaints such as: «If we were Ukrainians, they would have thought of us, they would have sent us weapons to free us from these terrorists».

News from the Central African Republic

The Carmelite family in the Central African Republic is growing. On Friday, January 6, three young confreres (Br. Aimé, Br. Alfred and Br. Wilfrid) made their solemn profession in the hands of the Provincial, Father Saverio. The ceremony was very impressive, especially when the parents of our three young people, with the gestures of local traditions, offered their son to God. After the solemn vows, the three friars were welcomed by the Carmelite family with a fraternal embrace. The following day, Saturday, there was another celebration: our three professed were ordained deacons, while Brother Régis was ordained a priest..

On Monday the 9th, we met in Bouar for a day of reflection and exchange, with all the professed fathers and young friars of the Delegation. We came from all the houses: Bozoum, Baoro, Bangui and Bouar.

Insecurity is on the rise in the country. In the previous days, there had been rebel attacks along the road between Bouar and Bozoum. On Tuesday the 10th, when we arrived in Bozoum for the preparations of the Agricultural Fair, we saw the pupils of the elementary school fleeing from the school: armed men had passed near Bozoum. Unfortunately there is a lot of fear, almost a psychosis, throughout the country.

Italy: death of Brother Serafino, OCD

On Sunday, January 15, he was born to heaven at the age of 90. Born in Gioia del Colle, Puglia, on September 2nd, 1932, Serafino Melchiorre, attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. He was professed in Carmel on 3rd of June 1954 and was a conventual in the community of the parish of Santa Teresa in Rome since 1955. A Friar artist, pupil of Filippo De Pisis, his art led him to participate in national and international

exhibitions. Author of significant works such as bronze doors for churches, as many as 21 in the world, including those of Santa Teresa in Rome and Stella Maris and the parish in Haifa, Israel.

The funeral was held on Wednesday the 18th, in the church of Santa Teresa, in the presence of members of his family, Carmelite friars of the various Roman communities and a large assembly.

Let us pray for him and for his Province.