



Philippines: celebrating 100 years of the Carmelite Nuns presence

The Carmelite Communities all over the Philippines rejoice in thanking the Lord for the gift of 100 years of God's faithfulness and love. It started in Jaro in November 1923 when Bishop James Paul McCloskey requested the Carmelite Nuns in Vietnam to establish a Carmel in the Diocese of Jaro to pray for the clergy and the faithful.

To share the centennial graces, priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese with our nuns and the OCDS organized *Carmel@100: Carmel Cares*, a medical mission program for two of the nearby villages. On 7 November, the priests, religious, seminarians and various choir groups in the Archdiocese presented *Carmel@100: A Prayer Concert*, graced by our Father General, Very Rev. Fr. Miguel Marquez

Calle, OCD and Fr. Christianus Surinono, OCD, Definitor for East Asia-Oceania, with the members of the Federation's Centennial Assembly, friends and benefactors of Carmel.

On 9 November 2023, the celebration started around the Eucharistic table presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio, Abp. Charles John Brown, D.D. His co-concelebrants included Abp. Jose Romeo Lazo, D.D. of Jaro, Father General, Fr. Christianus, several Prelates including our own Abp. Rolando Tria-Tirona, OCD, Fr Rey Sotelo, our Provincial and all the friars of the Province, the clergy of the Archdiocese and several visiting priests. Countless friends of Carmel, devotees and pilgrims filled whatever empty spaces one could find in the Cathedral.

Australia: Report on the friars' Regional Chapter

The friars from Australia attended their Regional Chapter along with Fr Christianus Surinono OCD, General Definitor for East Asia,

and Fr. Jim Noonan OCD, the Irish Provincial. Faced with few vocations for the friars from the Region (Australia, New Zealand and Oceania) and an aging

group of current friars, the Chapter had to consider seriously the future of the Regional Vicariate.

While it is tempting to see these issues as part of a general trend amongst religious orders in Australia, the friars were, however, encouraged to consider how the Discalced Carmelite charism could find new expressions. What became clear was that the venture into new expressions of being Carmelite men in Australia (and indeed the world) must honour and preserve the essence of the

rich Carmelite tradition without doggedly clinging to nor rejecting our religious and spiritual heritage. There was a call to work closely and collaboratively with our neighbouring Carmelite brothers and sisters from other cultural and national traditions. And indeed there was a great hope among the friars with regard to working towards a multi-cultural, synodal and faithful Carmelite way of life that would lead others to intimacy with Christ.

Brazil: St. Joseph's OCDS Provincial Congress

From 2 to 5 November 2023 the 37th Provincial Congress of St. Joseph's Province of Brazil took place at the Teresian Centre of Spirituality of Sao Roque in San Paolo. This included the Assembly for elections and the regionalization of the Province. It was a truly historic moment for the whole Province which is now composed of two Regionals: the Regional of St. John of the Cross which covers the south-east and central-west of the country and the Regional of St. Teresina for the north and north-east of Brazil.

The Congress was organized by the OCDS Provincial Council. It included times for prayer, for fraternal sharing

and other get-togethers. The Regional Councils were organized and there were reports from the Commissions for Formation and Missions. The participants included Fr. Emerson of Jesus, Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, the two OCDS Delegates, Frs. Luis Fernando and Wilson Gomes, as well as Rose Lemos, OCDS, the Provincial President, and the full OCDS Provincial Council." The theme for the Assembly was: "Regionalize so as to serve better", given the work that had gone into preparing for regionalization, as had been foreseen by the particular Statutes approved by the General Curia in March 2023.

South Africa

25 years of Carmelite presence

On 28 October 2023, the Carmelite Friars celebrated 25 years of Carmelite presence in South Africa, recalling that the first two friars arrived in Johannesburg on June 13, 1998. Initially, they resided in a facility provided by the Cloistered Sisters in their compound. Today, the Carmelites have two communities, one in Benoni and the other in Cape Town.

The Thanksgiving Mass was presided over by Bishop Buti Tlhagale Arch-

bishop of Johannesburg, our Superior General Fr Miguel Marquez OCD, the Provincial Superior Fr Silvestre D'Souza, the General Definitors Fr Philbert Namphande and Fr Pius James D'Souza, supported by many priests and nuns. The Superior of Benoni Community, Fr Arvin Tauro, welcomed all the guests. The pioneers of the mission in South Africa, Frs. Raymond and Mari Joe, were specially honoured during the celebration.

Blessing and Inauguration of the Carmelite Monastery in Cape Town

On October 27, 2023, the Mimosa Carmelite Monastery in Cape Town was blessed and inaugurated. His Eminence Cardinal Stephen Brislin, the Superior General Fr. Miguel Marquez OCD, Fr. Silvestre D'Souza OCD Provincial of Karnataka Goa, the General Definitors Fr. Philbert Namphande OCD and Fr. Pius James D'Souza OCD were among the numerous attendees.

Following the Mass, Cardinal Stephen Brislin blessed the Monastery, with Fr. Miguel Marquez OCD, cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque by Rev. Fr. Silvestre D'Souza OCD. The Cardinal, the Superior General, and the Auxiliary Bishop blessed plants of biblical saplings of two Olive plants and one Fig plant.

Hawaii: Carmelite monastery celebrates 50th year

On October 16, Hawaii's Carmelite monastery celebrated its 50th year with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry Silva and the sisters' families, friends and supporters.

Fifty years ago, on Oct. 25, 1973, seven Carmelite nuns left their monastery in Hong Kong, to answer Jesus' invitation to found Hawaii's Carmel of the Holy Trinity. The present celebration also

marked the Golden Jubilee of the one surviving member of those seven sisters who founded the monastery: Sister Agnella Iu.

Toward the end of Mass, Bishop Silva blessed the six urns containing the ash-

es of the pioneer nuns, displayed on a simple table against the back wall of the nuns' chapel. After Mass small mementos bags holding prayer cards, a scapular and a bracelet rosary were presented to attendees.

THE OCDS IN MAURICE

The OCDS on the island of Maurice has a solid foundation. The community of "Saint Therese of the Child Jesus of the Holy face" has been canonically established since 1983. Its members meet regularly and pay special attention to their life of prayer, fraternity, and initial and ongoing formation. Last month, they had their annual retreat with Mons. Denis Wiehe, bishop emeritus of Seychelles, who accompa-

nies them spiritually. They received the General Delegate for the OCDS, Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD, for a fraternal visit. The community publishes *La Colombe*, a magazine in which its members share spiritual topics.

Through their life of prayer and apostolate, the OCDS in Maurice are happy to serve the Carmelite Order, their diocese and the universal Church.

News from the Commissariat of St. Joseph, the Caribbean Islands

- 1) CICLA of Latin America has requested our Commissariat to host the experience of a Second Noviciate 2023 and it will take place in the Formation Community Of St. Joseph of the Americas. We have welcomed 9 students from CICLA and 2 from the Washington Province.
- 2) The 4 parishes of Santiago de los Caballeros, Saint Teresa's, Saint John of the Cross and Las Mercedes

ended the month of July, Our Lady of Mount Carmel's month, with a pilgrimage to the monastery of our OCD Nuns in Bani.

- 3) From 31 July to 4 August we gathered in the *Casa de la Altagracia en las Americas* for our usual Retreat. Fr. Victor Manuel Henao OCD from the Colombian Province accompanied us.

4) On Saturday 5 August, again with Fr. Victor Manuel, we celebrated a meeting of the Christian Family in the Parish of Saint Jude Thaddeus and honoured the centenary of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

5) The community from the House of Formation of Las Americas (hosting the Second Noviciate, as above), met with our OCD Nuns of Bani.

French-speaking Africa and Madagascar: Formation Session

At the end of October a formation course for formators was held at the Teresian Centre (of the Congo Commissariat). The theme for the meeting was: Formation in the intercultural era. It was conducted by Brothers Valentin Ntumba from the Congo (biblical and anthropological prospective) and A.M. Zachary Igirukwayo from Burundi ((theological and charismatic prospective).

With both realistic and prophetic courage the OCD Superiors of French-speaking Africa and Madagascar chose formation in this intercultural era as the theme for the formation of their formators. As a sequel to this course we must now appropriate and begin to promote interculture in educational settings.

This could result, for example, in

- a) transversal understanding and appreciation of the various cultures involved, leading to better understanding of and interaction with each other;
- b) learning to recognize the different languages and to appreciate what is fundamentally human in every language;
- c) re-establishing affectivity in the formation process so as to overcome intellectualism and assimilation tendencies and to promote evaluation processes that include “intercultural competence”;
- d) to be open to diversity and to include a missionary prospective in the formation programme.