



POPE FRANCIS APPROVES MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO ANNE OF JESUS

In a Decree signed on 14 December 2023, Pope Francis approved of a miracle attributed to Sister Anne of Jesus, the spiritual daughter of St. Teresa of Avila and friend of St. John of the Cross. This decision opens the pathway towards the Beatification of Sister Anne (Ana de Lobera y Torres, 1545-1621).

Orphaned at the age of 9, Anne met St. Teresa in Toledo in 1569. Teresa recognized Anne's virtues and invited her to enter Carmel. Later, St. Teresa would call Anne "the lady-captain of Prioresses". Anne had a very strong personality and great discernment and was renowned for

her charity. Following the death of Mother Teresa, she collected all the writings of the Saint and had them published. She developed St. Teresa's heritage by founding monasteries in France: (Paris 1604; Pontoise 1605; Dijon 105; and in Belgium: (Brussels 1607); Louvain and Mons (1608). She encouraged a foundation in Cracow (Poland) in 1612, as well as another monastery of English emigrants in Anvers (Belgium) in 1619. Throughout all these years devoted to founding monasteries, Anne of Jesus excelled in unconditional fidelity to the spirit and work of St. Teresa of Avila.

SPAIN: THE HOLY SEE GRANTS A JUBILEE YEAR TO THE DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS OF RONDA

The Carmelite Nuns of Ronda are celebrating a Jubilee Year from 21 January to 23 November 2024. The Bishop of Malaga, Monsignor Jesus Catala, petitioned this from the Holy See to honour the centenary of their foundation. The opening of the Jubilee took place during a Eucharistic celebration on Sunday 21 January, during a Novena in

honour of the Patron of Ronda, the Madonna of Peace.

The present monastery of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus was founded on 15 October 1924. The only remaining features of the original building, dating back to 1585, are the church and garden. A relic of the hand of St. Teresa of Jesus is preserved in the monastery today.

SPAIN: BIRTH OF “TERESIAN MISSION FOUNDATION”

On 16 January 2024, the *Fundacion Mision Teresiana* was established under the auspices of the two OCD Provinces of Spain and the OCD Province of Portugal.

The first reunion took place with the attendance of the following:- the Provincial of the Iberian Province, Fr. Francisco Sanchez Oreja; the Provincial of the San Joaquin Province of Navarre, Fr. Jon Korta; Fr. Jerome Paluku, Secretary for Missionary Cooperation in the General Curia and representing the Portuguese Province of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Sister Gema Juan, representative of the Federations of Carmelite Nuns; Mr. Jon Andoni, Provincial Bursar of the Navarre Province and Fr. Joao Rego, Re-

sponsible for Missions in Portugal. The aim of the new Foundation, apart from its being a stimulus for co-ordination and co-operation among the charitable institutions of the 3 Carmelite Provinces, will also be to promote and increase sensitive activity in relation to poverty in developing Nations and in regions particularly marginalised by society, as well as stimulating solidarity and collaboration for development generally. Another important objective of the Foundation will be to promote voluntary social schemes in aid of development and to sensitize citizens of the “North” to the situations of more deprived populations of the world.

ITALY: CONCLUSION OF 150th ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF SAINT THERESE OF THE INFANT JESUS

The Semi-OCD Province of Naples concluded festivities for the 150th anniversary of the birth of St. Therese with a solemn celebration. Fr. Luigi Gaetani presided and was accompanied by the Bari OCD community and our students in formation. The themes for the homily reflection were trust and ‘the little way’ as outlined in the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis “C’est la confiance”.

During 2023 the Bari community organized a special programme of studies and reflection on the life and writings of the Saint of Abandonment. This included a Spirituality Week on the theme “A completely new Little Way” with conferences by Frs. Luigi Gaetani and Pablo Rodriguez. There were also special “a shower of roses” evenings with processions through the streets of the parish (Therese is the

co-Patron of the parish). A Reliquiary was prepared and this provided the opportunity of bringing the relics of the Saint to some surrounding communities. A pilgrimage was also made to the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Gallipoli . It was

here that St. Therese appeared in 1910 to Mother Carmela, giving her a sum of money and confirming how she had lived her life and taught her sisters: “My life is secure and I am not mistaken”.

INDIA (KARNATAKA GOA): PROVINCE DAY AND SILVER JUBILEE OF PROFESSION

The celebration of the Province Day at Sadbhavana on December 13, 2023, was a joyous occasion that coincided with the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Frs. Jeevan Tauro, Alphonse Britto, Rovel D’Souza, Ajith Rodrigues and Canute Tauro. The last two were abroad for studies. It was graced by the presence of all the superiors of the Province and the friars from the Bengaluru region. Notably, Fr Rudolf V. D’Souza from Canada was also in attendance, accenting the international

solidarity within the fraternity. The heart of the celebration was the Eucharistic banquet, officiated by the Provincial. Following the mass, a felicitation ceremony was organized in the quadrangle of Sadbhavana. The festivities included spot games, a prayer song by Fr Praveen D’Souza and group; and a wishing song by Fr Wilfred Frank and group. To conclude the memorable day, a sumptuous dinner was served, symbolizing communal joy and fellowship.

INDIA: ST. TERESA OF AVILA’S SHRINE IN MAHE ELEVATED TO DIGNITY OF A MINOR BASILICA

The Shrine of St. Teresa in Mahe is one of the most visited shrines in India. Situated in the Diocese of Calicut it has just recently been elevated to the dignity of a Minor Basilica, thus

becoming the first Minor Basilica in North Kerala. The Papal Decree conferring this honour on the popular place of devotion in Pondicherry was announced at a press conference by Bishop Varghe-

se Chakkalakal on December 19, 2023. A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated in Mahe at a later date.

St. Teresa's shrine of Mahe is one of the oldest shrines of India and probably the oldest in Malabar. In his historical document dated 2 July 1757 and entitled "*De Missione Mahinensi in Malabaribus Commentarius*", Father Ignatius

of St. Hippolitus OCD relates how an Italian, Father Domenico of St. John of the Cross OCD, arrived in Mahe and founded a Mission there in 1723, during the reign of King Bayanor, the Raja of Kadathanad. A small Christian community grew up there and the Shrine of St. Teresa of Avila was built in 1736.

NICARAGUA: TERESIAN JUBILEE IN THE PARISH OF ST. TERESA, CARAZO

We are happy to announce that our Parish celebrates a special Jubilee this year, the 100th anniversary of the arrival here of the statue of St. Teresa of Jesus, Patron of our Parish. She is known here simply as "*La Doctora*". The statue, originally from the monastery of Alba de Tormes in Spain, arrived in Nicaragua

on Wednesday, 15 October 1924.

On Sunday 7 January 2024, our Jubilee Year started officially and the Patronal festivities commenced with the opening of the Holy Door, and the Blessing and solemn "Descent" of St. Teresa's statue. More than a thousand of the faithful attended this manifestation of love for St. Teresa of Avila.