



CENTRAL AFRICA: Fr. Aurelio Gazzera OCD nominated Co-Adjutor Bishop of Bangassou

On Friday 23 February 2024, Fr. Aurelio Gazzera was nominated Co-Adjutor Bishop of Bangassou, in the Central Africa Republic.

Fr. Aurelio was born 27 May 1964 in Cuneo (Italy) and entered the OCD Minor Seminary of Arenzano in 1974. In 1979 he made his First Profession in our Genovese Province and then completed a year of formation in the Central Africa Republic Delegation. He made his Solemn Profession on 11 October 1986 and was ordained priest 27 May 1989.

After serving for a period as a Forma-

tor in the Arenzano Minor Seminary he began his mission in the Central Africa Republic. He served in the following roles there: Assistant in the Minor Seminary of Yole (1992-1994); Director of the Primary Sector of the same Seminary (1994-2003); Parish Priest of St.-Michel in Bozoum (2003-2020); Superior of the Delegation of the Central Africa Republic (2014-2020). Since 2003 he is responsible for Caritas in Bouar and since 2020 is responsible for Christians in the villages and Director of the School of Mechanics of Baoro.

INDIA: Fr. Johannes Gorantla OCD nominated Bishop of Kurnool

On Tuesday 27 February 2024, Fr. Johannes Gorantla was nominated Bishop of Kurnool in India.

He was born on 27 February 1974. He made his First Profession, 11 February 1994 and Solemn Profession 2 April 2000. On 10 January 2002 he was ordained a priest. He studied Theology at the Teresianum and was awarded a Licence in Sacred Scripture at the Biblical Institute,

both in Rome. He got a Doctorate in Biblical Theology at the Gregorian University. Before these Roman years of study, he had studied Philosophy at the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala, India.

From 2008 to 2011, Fr. Johannes was Superior of the Andhra Pradesh Commissariat and was the first Provincial of the new Province for the triennium 2011 to 2014. From July 2010 to July 2014 he

was President of the Conference of Religious in Andhra Pradesh and an executive member of the National Conference of India. He has served as Vice-President of Catholic Education and a member of the Biblical Commission and the Commission for Evangelization, all in Andhra Pradesh. He was a Consultor of the Diocese of Khammam for 6 years and taught Sacred Scripture for 7 years in the “Jyothirbhavan” Institute of Theology

and Spirituality. He has translated the Book of St. Teresa’s *Life* into Telugu and has written 2 books, one on St. Teresa of Jesus and a second on St. Therese of Lisieux, plus writing numerous articles. At the OCD General Chapter of 2015, held in Avila (Spain), Fr. Johannes was elected to the General Definitory and from 2021, he was Superior of the Missionary Seminary, the Specialization Community of the Teresianum.

SPAIN: Carmelite Nuns in Segovia celebrate the 450th anniversary of their foundation.

This year the Diocese of Segovia commemorates the 450th anniversary of St. Teresa’s foundation of the Monastery of St. Joseph on 19th March 1574. It was the 9th foundation of St. Teresa. In celebration, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Segovia, the Iberian OCD Province, the Municipality and the Diocese organized a series of religious and cultural events on the 15, 18 and 19 March: a Teresian lyrical recital performed by the soprano Montserrat Marti Caballe and

the baritone Luis Santana, accompanied by the pianist Victor Carbajo; and a conference entitled “History of the Foundation of St. Teresa of Jesus in Segovia”, organized by Fr. Salvador Ros OCD. On the Solemnity of St. Joseph, 19th March, the Bishop of Segovia, Mons. Cesar Augusto Franco Martinez, presided at the Mass of the 450th anniversary, in the presence of Fr. Francisco Sanchez Oreja, Provincial of the Iberian OCD Province and numerous Discalced Carmelites.

BURKINA FASO: Assistance for the evacuated of Dedougou

Due to terrorism, many people have had to be evacuated in Dedougou and are now homeless. Many of these are women and children and some are relatives of the OCD Friars of our Delegation. Being aware of the needs of these brothers and sisters, the Carmelites have come to their as-

sistance on Sunday 25 February in the presence of our Provincial Delegate, with an initial distribution of food and drinks. About twenty families numbering over 160 persons were grateful beneficiaries. According to the Prior of our Community, Fr. Alphonse Yonli, with the

help of our Provincial ONG Solmun, the Community hopes to keep assisting about 100 homeless of Dedougou throughout the year. We wish to extend

the gratitude of these homeless people to all the generous benefactors of our ONG Solmun.

DEATH OF FATHER ALOYSIUS DEENEY, OCD

Father Aloysius Deeney, OCD (Geoge Joseph Deeney), died, as a result of cancer, in Indonesia, on 14 March 2024, at the age of 75.

Father Aloysius was born in 1948 in Pennsylvania and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on 18 May 1974. He began his initial formation with the Discalced Carmelites of the Washington Province and made his First Profession on 1 May 1984 in our Oklahoma Province. In 1990 he was elected Provincial in Oklahoma and served as Provincial for six years, before being postulated for a third triennium.

After just a year and a half of that triennium, however, he was moved to Rome. As Provincial he supported Hispanic vocations and introduced bilingual liturgy to the Province.

In 1998, he was nominated as the General Delegate for the OCDS. He was prominent in the preparation of the new Constitutions for the OCDS and wrote a book entitled “*Welcome to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites*” (ICS Publications). When his role in office concluded he went to Indonesia and played a major part in establishing the OCDS in Indonesia. RIP.

NIGERIA: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OCDS

Last February, representatives of the OCDS Communities of Nigeria met in Benin City to discuss some important matters relating to their life as members of the Carmelite Secular Order. The General OCDS Delegate as well as the Delegate for Nigeria and Ghana were also present for this meeting.

At the moment OCDS Communities are present in the cities of Abuja, Benin, Ek-

poma, Enugu, Ibadan, Nsukka, Onitsha and Owerri. The OCDS in Nigeria is noteworthy for its dedication to prayer and fraternal life.

During the February Assembly participants stressed the importance of preparing their own OCDS Statutes with a view to having helpful guidelines for living out those Constitutions in their own region. A commission will be set up presently for this purpose. It was also

thought that the programme for formation needs to be reviewed.

The Lord has blessed Nigeria with numerous vocations to the OCDS and

continually more people are finding in this vocation a certain fulfilment and a means of growing in their relationship with God and with others.

THE OCDS IN GHANA

An OCDS Community is present in the city of Tamale and holds its meetings in the Monastery of the Carmelite Nuns there. Some of the OCDS members will pronounce their temporal vows shortly. All of them are deeply involved in their formation and life of prayer and community. The call to become Secular Carmelites has also been heard by other groups who are meeting in parishes around Tamale. They have already asked for assistance in beginning their official programme as members of the OCDS.

Last month a new OCDS Community was officially established in Accra, the capital of Ghana. It is composed of a group of people who have wanted to become Carmelite Seculars for quite a while. The title selected for their new Community is Our Lady, Beauty of Carmel, and it will be assisted by the OCDS Delegate for Nigeria and Ghana and by the OCDS community in Tamale. May the good Lord continue to bless Ghana with other vocations to the OCDS and help them to be witnesses of the mercy and love of God.

PERU: 2024 OCDS RETREAT

Members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites in Peru met for their annual Retreat from the 23 to 25 February 2024. This year's venue was the Spirituality Centre of the Dominican Missionaries of the Rosary in Lima. This annual Retreat was organized by the OCDS Council of the St. Martin de Porres Commissariat.

The Spiritual Exercises saw 80 members convene from the 6 Communities of Peru: Abancay, Arequipa, Cuzco, Ica, Lima and Trujillo. It was hoped that it would be a special time of prayer and meditation and that the results would be expressed in concrete undertakings in each of our Communities.