



**GENERAL DEFINITORY OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES**

Corso d'Italia, 38

00198 Roma – Italy

## **SEXENNIUM 2021-2027 – LETTER NO. 15**

Rome, 15 March 2025

Dear brothers and sisters of the Teresian Carmel:

Receive our fraternal salute at the end of the new meeting of the Definitory General, which took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. The General and all the Definitors were back in Rome after two months of intense pastoral visits and other meetings in various parts of the world.

At the start of the meeting, we noted the recent appointment of Father Saverio Cannistrà as Metropolitan Archbishop of the diocese of Pisa (Italy). We repeat our gratitude for his service to the Order, particularly during the two sexennia when he was Superior General. Father Saverio is now starting on a new phase, which we hope will be fecund for the Church and for himself. We also hope that he will be able to continue living his vocation and Carmelite identity in his new situation. The episcopal ordination will take place on the forthcoming 11<sup>th</sup> May in the Cathedral of Pisa.

### **Primary topics**

As usual, we first discussed the news and current situation of the principal topics for the Order in this Sexennium. One continues to be the reflection on and subsequent deepening of our charismatic identity, an essential subject to be able always to respond faithfully and with renewed inspiration to God's call, which must be at every moment the basis for our decisions. In some circumscriptions and communities, this objective is being carried out with the aid of the *Declaration on the Charism*, approved by the last Chapter General. Attention to our charism continues to be fundamental, considering the great diversity in which the Order's religious live, with regard to social contexts, cultural environment, apostolic engagements, composition of the communities, etc. As can be read in the introduction to the *Declaration on the Charism*, "we feel a pressing challenge to embrace the richness of the charism that has been given to us and to continue to update it so that it may acquire new vitality and remain ever current".

### *Formation*

In order for the Order to continue in the future to live according to the charism that we have received, it is fundamental that we dedicate our best energy to the initial formation, particularly in those regions where the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of vocations. In all of our visits, we have tried to insist on the need for serious discernment and good accompaniment of candidates from their very first steps in their relationship with the Order.

One instrument that should help in this area is the *Ratio institutionis* general, which is currently being revised and brought up to date. Once the first draft of the new text was sent to all circumscriptions, some suggestions were received for enriching the document. The commission responsible is analyzing them and continuing work on editing the new version. We would urge the Circumscriptions that have not yet submitted their contributions to the first draft to do so as soon as possible.

### *Youth Pastoral Work*

Some circumscriptions are devoting dedication and interest in youth pastoral work. We encourage everyone to keep in mind this important evangelizing and vocational area. A concrete reality at this time is the preparation of the Jubilee of Youth, which takes place in Rome from the 28<sup>th</sup> July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> August of this year. Among the numerous participants arriving from around the world will be a significant number of young people linked to our Carmelite communities: registrations exceed the 400 places available in the housing of the Teresianum, and come from very different countries. As has already been announced, there will be a Carmelite vigil on the 31<sup>st</sup> July in the Rome parish of San Pancrazio, in which the Father General will participate.

### *Anniversaries*

Celebration of the anniversaries of Therese of Lisieux continues, now in its third and final year, during which will be commemorated the centenary of her proclamation as a saint of the Universal Church. For the 17<sup>th</sup> May, the anniversary of her canonization, several celebrations are planned in different significant places.

Meanwhile, preparation moves forward for 2026, the third centenary of the canonization and the first centenary of the Doctorate of Saint John of the Cross, which are celebrated concretely from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2026. For this reason, several significant activities are planned, especially on the part of the Iberian Province. The Definitory General will propose some worksheets on Saint John's texts throughout the year. Then from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, there will be an international Congress in Rome and in Avila on mysticism and Saint John of the Cross, organized by the group of reflection on the intellectual life of the Order, in collaboration with the Teresianum, the CITEs and the Definitory General.

### *Marian life*

Revitalization of the Marian dimension of the Order is another of the objectives underway. The community of Fatima (Portugal) is coordinating the initiatives being planned for this purpose. The broad survey sent to the whole Order on Marian life received a significant number of responses, which are being summarized and analyzed, so as to extract the relevant conclusions. Based on the results of that survey it will be possible to think of concrete proposals. Work is also being done to make contact with the mariologists of the Order, as well as the directors of the most significant Marian sanctuaries.

### **Pastoral visits**

An important part of the work and dialogue of the Definitory has to do with pastoral visits. They are a valued instrument for maintaining direct contact with different manifestations of the Order in the world. Also, on this occasion we can share information and impressions on those that have been carried out in the last few weeks.

### *Nigeria (Anglo-Irish Province)*

During the months of January and February, there was the pastoral visit to the Regional Vicariate of Nigeria. Father Jean-Baptiste started it, and later Father Philbert joined him. From the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, the Father General participated in the visit.

The Carmelite Mission in Nigeria began in 1988, when the first friars arrived at Enugu, invited by the local bishop. Initially, Nigeria was a center of formation for novices of all of Anglophone Africa. In 1993, the Mission became juridically dependent on the Anglo-Irish Province, and in 2008 was established as a Regional Vicariate. From then on, the Vicariate has grown significantly, having now up to 56 solemn professed brothers, 29 simple professed brothers and 11 novices. It has 9 communities in Nigeria, and one mission in Ghana. In the country, there are 3 communities of Discalced Carmelite Sisters, and 9 communities of Secular Carmelites.

The Vicariate maintains a strong relationship with the Anglo-Irish Province, which provides economic support and receives Nigerian religious to serve in the mother Province. Carmelites in

Nigeria are very active in various pastoral areas, such as formation, retreats, parish ministries, schools, promotion of Carmelite devotions and rehabilitation of ex-prisoners.

One of the challenges to be faced is the lack of continuity in agreements with local bishops when they change. It is crucial to invest in the initial formation, for a good evolution of the current stage of growth of the circumscription. We have to be constantly attentive to the quality of community life and fraternal relationship between the friars. Financial transparency also has to be improved.

Amidst all this, one of the most important concerns is insecurity in the country. We pray with confidence to the Lord for peace in Nigeria and commend our brothers and sisters to the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

### *Karnataka-Goa*

The pastoral visit to the Province of Karnataka-Goa took place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> January to the 26<sup>th</sup> February and was performed by Fathers Roberto Maria and Christianus. The Father General was present during the last days of the visit.

The province of Karnataka-Goa comprises four states of India, with a total population of 274 million people, of whom only 1.89% are Christians. The Province has a total of 298 members, 186 of whom are in India, the remainder being in other countries, particularly in Tanzania and Canada. In India there are 151 solemn professed, 22 simple professed and 13 novices, in 20 canonically established communities and 4 residences. There are 9 communities of Discalced Carmelite sisters in the territory of the Province. The Secular Carmel, which is growing, has some 320 members.

Among the positive elements of the Province can be noted: the strong sense of unity and respect among the friars; faithfulness to liturgical prayer and the spiritual life; diverse pastoral activity (four spiritual centres, two sanctuaries, three missions, three social centres, ten parishes, six schools, publications, audiovisual products....); the sense of belonging and engagement with the Province; efficient and responsible administration; attention to formation with the emphasis on intellectual and spiritual formation...

The visitors gave some guidance on how to improve a number of aspects, recommending: strengthening of the prayer-life (establishing enough time for silent prayer in all communities); maintaining a balance between community life and ministerial activities; dedicating greater attention to human and Carmelite formation after the novitiate; collaborating with other Provinces in the study of philosophy; and regularizing the communities not yet formally established.

### *California-Arizona*

Definitors Martin and Christophe-Marie jointly carried out the pastoral visit to the Province of California-Arizona, from the 13<sup>th</sup> January to the 13<sup>th</sup> February. The Father General participated in the last week of the visit.

Irish friars initiated Carmelite presence in California in 1924. Previously, some Catalan Carmelites had arrived in Arizona, coming from Mexico. In 1964, the Arizona Carmelites joined with those of California, and the Province of California-Arizona was formed in 1983. It now has 28 solemn professed brothers, 3 simple professed and 1 novice, living in 5 communities (the houses of Tucson and Stanwood have recently been closed). The Province has a mission in Jinja (Uganda), with 9 solemn professed, 3 simple professed and 3 novices. Beyond this, the territory of the Province has 16 communities of nuns and 72 Secular Carmelite communities, with some 2500 members.

Among the outstanding elements of the Province are the life of prayer and fraternity, the strong sense of belonging amongst the friars, the care and integration of the older religious in community life, the promotion of vocations, and the good connection between the friars, the sisters and the seculars.

Thinking about the future, it is recommended to create a team for initial formation, and reflect on permanent formation, to avoid individualism, and encourage mutual service, maintain regular meetings in the communities and the Province, and improve the circulation of information. It is also recommended to create an economic commission to manage the financial challenges of the Province. And it is also suggested that a commission be created to reflect on how to share the Carmelite charism with the contemporary world.

### *Community of Los Angeles (Korea)*

From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> February, Father Martin and Father Christophe-Marie visited the Community of Los Angeles, formed by religious from the Province of Korea. The presence of Korean Carmelites in California began in 1996. With the growth of Korean members of the OCDS, the friars rented a house in the outskirts of Los Angeles, and then bought a property in 2005, which included a house and a chapel, in La Habra. Currently, the community comprises two religious, whose principal ministry is to supervise the Korean OCDS communities.

It is essential for the friars who go to the United States to learn English, to be able to communicate and carry out their ministry effectively. It is requested that the Province of Korea send a third friar, to form a more solid community. At the same time, the Korean friars should begin a gradual process of integrating with the Province of California-Arizona, participating in provincial meetings, and strengthening the relationship with the Community of Alhambra. In the same way, it is recommended to develop the relationship of the Korean OCDS members with the OCDS members of the Province of California-Arizona.

### *Community of Korona, Florida (Warsaw)*

Father Christophe-Marie carried out a visit to the community of Korona (Florida), from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The community has existed since 1988, and was canonically erected in 2000, made up of three friars (two Poles and one American). The community offers various spiritual activities, like prayer-groups, Masses in Polish, and formation in Carmelite spirituality. The friars have constructed a Way of the Cross and a Rosary in sculptures in which one can move around in a car, making the place into a little sanctuary. The chapel is always open, and the friars are available for confessions. The community has a good relationship with the congregation, and receives a lot of volunteer help.

The visitor notices that the community has achieved a good equilibrium between its prayer-life and its apostolate. The friars are encouraged to continue with the “Social Hall” project to improve the community's capacity to welcome. On the other hand, it is recommended that they consider a possible collaboration with the community of Munster in Indiana (of the Province of Krakow).

### *Delhi*

Father Pius made a pastoral visit to the Province of Delhi from the 19<sup>th</sup> January to the 19<sup>th</sup> February. The Father General participated in the plenary meeting of closure, having had to modify his calendar of meetings due to health problems, which were kindly and effectively attended to by the friars and the health staff in Delhi (and later in Mangalore). On the other hand, Father Christopher Fernandez, from the Province of South Kerala, collaborated in the visit with a detailed review of the financial situation of each house.

The Province of Delhi has its roots in the missionary work of the Province of Malabar. It began as a mission in 1975, and passing through various stages, became a Province in 2010. Its territory covers eight states of northeast India, with a broad geographic sweep. Currently, it has 9 canonically erected houses, and cares for 13 missionary parishes, some with substations. There are a total of 44 solemn professed friars, 14 simple professed and 2 novices. The majority of the friars are young, with 33 under 50, and only 5 over 60 years old.

In spite of the distance between the communities, there is a strong feeling of fraternity. The friars are passionately devoted to education, evangelization and social work. Financial administration is clear and transparent. Social initiatives like centres for children in marginal neighborhoods are noteworthy. The friars persevere in spite of the difficult climate conditions of the regions and in an atmosphere that is scarcely favorable towards Christian faith.

The promotion of vocations is complicated by the scarce presence of Catholics in the region. Although formation is being addressed, it is necessary to improve the preparation of formators and collaboration with other provinces. It was observed that some friars prioritize apostolic work over prayer-life and community-life, both essential aspects of the Carmelite charism. Schools are an economic support, but they depend on changing governmental policies.

Some proposals coming out of the visit were: to evaluate the style of life, to be sure that it is

in line with Carmelite sobriety; to increase the number of friars in the sub-units, so as to form stable communities; to translate and publish works of Carmelite saints into Hindi and Punjabi; and to form lay groups that can eventually become OCDS communities.

#### *The International Teresian-SanJuanist Centre (CITeS)*

Father Agusti Borrell, Vicar General, made a pastoral visit to the CITeS (The International Teresian-SanJuanist Centre) of Avila from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February. The CITeS community is formed of seven religious of various origins (Poland, Spain, Peru, Lebanon, Madagascar and Mexico), to whom are added three laypersons, two of them members of the Secular Carmel. In addition, there is a sizeable group of students, both Discalced Carmelites and other course participants.

The CITeS, founded in the eighties, is devoted to specialized formation in Carmelite spirituality and mysticism, with a focus on Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint John of the Cross. It offers a master's degree recognized by the Catholic University of Avila (UCAV), and organizes various academic activities and publications, like congresses, seminars and retreats. The Center is seeking to obtain ecclesiastic recognition through the Teresianum, with the possibility of becoming a Pontifical Institute of Mysticism.

The permanent members, both religious and lay, demonstrate a strong commitment to the CITeS mission. Warmth and a family type of relationship are values much appreciated by the participants. The religious community is the nucleus of CITeS, and the integration of the laypersons is a valuable innovation, which is a stimulus to strengthening community life and prayer. In this sense, it is suggested that the prayer-life could be enriched with more shared time. The rhythm of work is demanding and the dedication is admirable, if only it can be balanced so as to avoid personal exhaustion. Regarding activities, priority should be given to the academic life and systematic study of Carmelite mysticism, while evaluating and reducing activities that do not contribute to this objective. Efforts will be made to incorporate new religious into the community, to reinforce the teaching and investigation, and the convenience of having more administrative staff will also be assessed.

#### ***Fraternal visits***

##### *Oklahoma*

The pastoral visit to the Semiprovince of Oklahoma took place in September, 2022. Now, after his visit to California, Father Christophe-Marie reviewed with the friars the implementation of the decisions taken at that time and the future of the Semiprovince, including the litigation with the bishop concerning Oklahoma City. The visitor met with the Provincial council, and later held a gathering with almost all the friars, during which the future of Oklahoma and different possible options were analyzed. He also met with the administrative team, who presented the campaign to collect funds for the basilica project. He also had a meeting with members of the Provincial Council of the OCDS, which consists of 28 established communities and 5 others in formation, for a total of 824 members.

##### *Conference of Superiors of Francophone Africa*

Father Jean-Baptiste participated in the X<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Conference of Superiors of Francophone Africa and Madagascar, celebrated in Bangui (Central African Republic) on the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> January, with 13 members present, including the President of the Anglophone Conference. The principal subjects discussed were the life and mission of the circumscriptions, the annual balance of activities, the challenges and future prospects.

Emphasis was put on the need to deepen the Carmelite charism and give the faithful accessible spiritual resources. The Conference has edited works of the Carmelite saints in digital format. Plans were made for future sessions for formators, for the second novitiate, and for the next General Assembly. The Assembly reflected on the letter from the Father General concerning formation, urging more in-depth reflection in the circumscriptions, as also on the provisional document on the *Ratio Institutionis*, underlining the importance that the circumscriptions study it and give feedback. It was decided to hold a joint conference every three years between the Francophone and Anglophone

Conferences, for the purpose of achieving more unity of the Carmel in Africa. Further, a Carmelite Congress is planned for every six years; the next one will focus on 'Therese of Lisieux and formation'.

### *Provincial Councils of India*

At the end of February, the Father General and Father Pius had a meeting with the provincials of India and their councilors, to discuss various topics of interest. One of these was permanent formation on Mount Carmel, where courses had been organized several years ago, and which could now be revived and reinstated. The idea, which had been fully considered and encouraged by the Chapter General, was well received by the Definitory: the possibilities and conditions of this initiative will be studied, in dialogue with the Delegation of Israel, and with the circumscriptions that might be interested (whose active collaboration will be necessary to organize the courses).

One of the questions debated at the meeting was the principle of territoriality. In recent years, important steps have been taken to regularize the presences of the provinces, in accordance with the tradition and legislation of the Order, which provides for an exclusive and separate territory for each circumscription. The steps taken so far were highlighted during the dialogue, as were those which are still pending, but also the various consequences that this process has entailed (especially for the provinces in India); also the criteria for the future, thinking of the potential expansion of the numerous provinces and remembering that there are parts of the world where the Order is not represented.

The Definitory feels the need for serious, calm reflection by everyone on new foundations, keeping in mind elements such as the tradition and legislation of the Order, the fundamental elements of our style of life, the meaning of the missionary activity, the necessary cohesion of the provincial family, the sources of financing of the provinces, etc. It is only with clarity and consensus on these questions that we can take positive decisions on new foundations of the Order in different parts of the world.

With regard to collaboration between provinces, it was confirmed that this has to be done in a spirit of service and communion, not with economic criteria. At the same time, the provinces that receive the help of religious from other provinces should feel encouraged to collaborate economically with those provinces, for example, in the field of formation or in concrete missionary and social projects.

### *Egypt*

Father Christophe-Marie, along with Father Paolo de Carli, Bursar General, was in Egypt from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> February. The principal objective of the visit was to advance work on economic themes, review initial formation and initiate the engagement of the friars in El Fayum. The two Egyptian novices are in Trento (Italy). The importance was emphasized of studying theology in Rome, in order to provide an adequate point of reference for religious life. With regard to the El Fayum monastery, it is currently in the process of closing, with only two nuns taking care of it. The possibility is being considered of an agreement with the friars of Egypt, for them to take on the management of a welcome center for spiritual exercises, that is attached to the monastery. In a meeting with the Commissariat Council, we spoke of the upcoming Chapter Congress in 2026, the first of this Commissariat, which will represent an important step in its organizational development.

### **The life of the circumscriptions**

As we have pointed out on various occasions, it is needful to continue progressing in discernment and decision-making regarding the map of presences of the Order, following the proposition coming from the Extraordinary Definitory of September 2023 at Lisieux. At this meeting, we revisited the present state of this reflection on that subject in the different regions of the world. We remember that it will be an important subject in the provincial chapters of next year, and at the General Chapter of 2027.

In another area, we have analyzed various questions relating to specific circumscriptions of the Order. Thus, for example, we have received information on Israel, where it continues to be necessary to incorporate more religious who have the capacity and the availability to provide a service

in a place that is so emblematic for the Order.

We have also received and analyzed information on certain circumscriptions that for various reasons we are attending with special attention, like Hungary, Lombardy, Naples or Central Italy, among others. We are grateful for the information sent by the Province of Mexico on the application of recommendations from the pastoral visit at the beginning of the previous year.

As usual, we have received some requests for economic assistance, to which we will reply immediately. We remind you again that we wish to give preference especially to initial formation, for which we have created an economic fund, for responding to well-founded requests that come to us in this area. For other kinds of assistance, we have to respond according to the possibilities, considering the economic situation of the circumscriptions and viability of the projects, and achieving a diverse and balanced distribution of resources.

## **The Curia General**

The Procurator General, Father Juan David Noguera, informed the Definitory about the subjects and cases that he has managed on behalf of the Order before the Vatican Dicasteries. This is a useful and essential service for obtaining necessary permits, and especially for regularizing all types of personal situations. The Procurator General is also available to the circumscriptions to advise in canonical proceedings and for accomplishing necessary procedures in Rome.

Father Marco Chiesa, Postulator General, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this position for the last four years. During this time, he had an excellent collaboration with Mr. Patrizio Di Stefano and Mr. Antonino Cottone, who is in charge of the relics. In *Acta Ordinis OCD* are published every year the details of the causes that involve the Postulation and/or the Order. Among the most notable recent developments are the canonization of the martyrs of Compiègne, and the beatification of Ana de Jesus, which represented significant milestones in the history of the Order.

The valorization of the lipsanoteca (deposit of relics) is in its finalization stage, awaiting additional material. Work is moving forward on the body of Saint Teresa of Jesus in Alba de Tormes, a process that has required great dedication and care. Professional development of an image and a bust of Saint Teresa is being completed with digital media, using data obtained in the process.

In the liturgical field, revision has been made of the *Editio typica altera* of the *Proprium Missarum OCD*, and the *OCDS Ritual* has been prepared, both awaiting official approval from the Vatican, which we hope is imminent. Further, the liturgical texts of Blessed Ana of Jesus have been presented and approved, and those of Blessed Maria Felicia of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the Spanish martyrs have been revised.

The Bursar General, Father Paolo de Carli, presented the report on the economic and administrative situation of the Curia General, as well as of other areas directly dependent on the Definitory General. On this occasion, we analyzed the final accounts of the year 2024, and the budget proposed for the year 2025.

Father Paolo reported the economic situation of the Commissariat of Egypt and of the Delegation of Israel, after having recently visited both places. We also commented on the state of works being carried out or which are planned in properties that are directly dependent on the Generalate. In particular, our desire is to complete the restoration and modification of the Wadi-es-Siah, near the primitive chapel, in the place of the first hermits, the cradle of the Order.

Father Jerome Paluku, Secretary for Missionary Cooperation, laid out some data and reflections on economic aid to missions. Sources of financing come principally from contributions made by provinces and various donations. With regard to costs, the resources are destined to finance projects presented by missions. A committee formed by Definitors Christianus, Pius and Jean-Baptiste, together with the Secretary, has been charged with approving or rejecting requests, based on criteria known to all. Priority is given to petitions relating to formation. It is worth mentioning that there are more expenses than income, and only half of the circumscriptions of the Order contribute to the fund

for missions, in spite of the decisions of recent Chapter Generals.

With regard to relations with international agencies, they are generally good. The Secretary participated in a mission to Nigeria with a team from the Italian Episcopal Conference, which turned out to be a positive experience and strengthened ties with them. In another area, there is a plan for the Secretary to collaborate in formative sessions on the management of projects in the Congo.

With regard to projects that are being accompanied, maintenance work on the church of the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Havana (Cuba) is moving forward, although the work is advancing very slowly. Apart from aid already obtained, a 'mission appeal' is being organized in the archdiocese of Miami (USA).

With Father Angelo Lanfranchi, Secretary and Archivist General, and Mr. Axel Alt, co-worker at the General Archive, we have analysed the latest improvements and innovations on the website <https://digicarmel.com/>. It is a valuable tool that continues to be enriched progressively with more historical and bibliographical material of the entire Order, and makes it possible easily to obtain any kind of information on the life and history of the Carmel.

### **Discalced Carmelite Sisters**

Father Rafal Wilkowski, Secretary for the Nuns, and Father Juan Pablo Patiño, Vice-Secretary, have informed the Definitory of some subjects concerning the Carmelite Sisters. The commission for revision of the *Constitutions of 1991* has already had several virtual meetings. It continues its work of charismatic, theological and ecclesial reflection, before beginning the stage of editing the text. The dialogue between them is turning out to be very interesting and enriching, taking into account the diversity of origins, languages and experiences of the sisters who form the commission, a group that is truly international and pluralist.

On the other hand, we have noted a concrete situation at some monasteries that are having difficulties for various reasons. For example, we are particularly conscious of the community at Aleppo in Syria, a country that suffers from instability, and often from violence. We continue to pray for them and for all communities of the Order that are located in zones marked by conflict, insecurity or poverty.

### **The Secular Carmel**

Father Ramiro Casale, Delegate for the Secular Order, has presented information on the visits he has made in several regions of the world where there is a significant presence of Secular Carmelites. In recent weeks, specifically, he has been in Mexico, where communities are many and numerous. The Definitory has approved the *OCDS Statutes* of Ecuador, and some modifications to those of the Iberian Province.

Work is progressing on preparation of the international meeting of the Secular Carmel planned for the month of July 2026 in Avila. Although the congress is planned for a maximum of 950 participants, more than a thousand pre-inscriptions have already been received, coming from very different places around the world.

Finally, we discussed the efforts being made in dialogue with the Dicastery for the Institutes of Consecrated Life, to clarify and regularize the situation of members of the Secular Carmel who, at various times and places, have not made their final promise in fulfilment of what is established in the *OCDS Constitutions*. In recent days, the Father General and the Delegate for the OCDS have sent a letter to explain in detail the steps to be followed. It is an opportunity to insist on the seriousness of the commitment of Secular Carmelites, and the need to always follow the direction and norms approved by the Order and the Church.

We finished the Definitory sessions having entered fully into Lent, and we prepare ourselves to participate with the whole community of the General House in the spiritual exercises, in the desire

to live intensely the path towards Easter. We wish that all members of the Carmelite family may experience the joy of new life that comes to us with the resurrection of Christ, and that in this jubilee year we may all feel ourselves to be true pilgrims of hope.

Fraternally,

Father Miguel Marquez Calle, *General*

Father Agusti Borrell i Viader

Father Pius James D'Souza

Father Philbert Namphande

Father Robert Maria Pirastu

Father Christianus Surinono

Father Martin Martinez Larios

Father Christophe-Marie Baudouin

Father Jean-Baptiste Pagabeleguem