

Italy: Father Saverio Cannistra named Archbishop Metropolitan of Pisa

On Friday, 6th February, the Holy Father named as Metropolitan Archbishop of Pisa Father Saverio Cannistra, OCD, former Prepositor General of Discalced Carmelites, and currently Vicar of the parish of Saint Pancras in Rome.

Curriculum vitae

Msgr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD, was born in Catanzaro on 3rd October 1958. After obtaining a licence in Romance philology at the *Scuola Normale Superiore* of Pisa, he worked as an editor at a publishing house. On 17th September, 1985, he entered the novitiate of the Discalced Carmelites of the Italian Province of Tuscany. He made his perpetual profession on 14th September, 1990, and was ordained as a priest on 24th October, 1992.

Among the positions he has occupied and studies he has pursued, we can list

the following: Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology at the Gregorian Pontifical University of Rome (1998); lecturer in Trinitarian Theology at the Pontifical Theology Faculty and Institute of Spirituality “Teresianum” in Rome (1995-2003); Professor of Christology and Theological Anthropology at the Theological Faculty of Central Italy in Florence (2003-2009). In 2007, he was elected member of the Council of the Presidency of the Italian Theological Association.

In his Province of Tuscany, he has been a provincial counsellor (1996-2002), master of postulants and students (1999-2008) and provincial (2008). He was Prepositor General of the Order of Discalced Carmelites from 2009 to 2021. He is a member of the presbyteral council of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Florence, and Vicar of the Parish of Saint Pancras in Rome.

Spain : Federal Meeting of Discalced Carmelites of Andalusia and Badajoz

From the 27th to the 31st January, the Sisters of the Federation of the 'Virgin of Carmel' of Andalusia and Badajoz held their 15th Meeting. We held it once again, facing the sea, in the 'Santa Maria de Regla' Spiritual Centre of Chipiona (Cadiz), which belongs to the Franciscan Fathers. We were fortunate to have the presence and fraternal accompaniment of our Father General Miguel Marquez and our Assistant, Father Gabriel Castro. We were all one - and not just together - and so were able to share our life, our

joys, our sorrows and our hopes . . . But above all, we expressed the hopes that help us to move forward in joy, with the luxury of having the Brothers who walk with us on our path. We also sought in sincerity and humility those little lights that God places for us so that we can adhere to what we believe to be His will. This enabled us to then proceed to elect the new federal President and Council. We are all at your service, if you would do us the charity of praying for us.

Italy: Meeting of European formators

From the 27th to the 31st January 2025, 38 directors met at Bocca di Magra, at the spiritual centre of the Ligurian Province. They came from 18 different European circumscriptions: Austria, Italy, Malta, France, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Croatia, Czech Republic and Belgium, but there were also present formators from Lebanon, Egypt and the International Theological College of Rome. The work focused on the revision of the projected new *Ratio Institutionis*. It was a great and enriching opportunity

for everyone to share their own experience of the formation process in an international context. The formators also had an opportunity to visit the historical centre of Pisa for an afternoon. This meeting of formators from Europe at Bocca di Magra was intense and fruitful, not only for the contributions to the production of the new *Ratio Institutionis*, but also through the reinforcement of fraternal connections, and the renewed commitment to the training and spiritual mission.

Launching of the School-Laboratory of online formation for the OCDS of Italy

Friday 31st January, 2025, saw the beginning of the School-Laboratory of online formation for formators, both current and future, organized by the Interprovincial OCDS Coordination of Italy.

During this first online meeting, more than 250 members of the Secular Order from the various Provinces, Semi-Provinces and Commissariats of the OCDS of Italy participated in the session.

In his Letter to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites on 15th August 2023, our Father General wrote: “Formation for the Secular Carmel is an essential and necessary element: *«The central objective of the formation process in the Secular Order is to prepare the person to live out*

the charism and spirituality of the Carmel in his or her way of following Christ and for the service of his or her mission » (Const. 32). (...) The fundamental elements of the formation are the human, Christian and Carmelite dimensions.”

The four sessions of this first phase of the School focus especially on the human dimension of the formation. Their goal is to offer basic principles, for the purpose of taking responsibility and accompanying the person in formation, so that the formator is enabled to welcome the person being formed with all his or her existential and formational baggage, while helping him or her to acquire a way of thinking, feeling and living that is impregnated by the Carmelite charism.

Portugal : 20th anniversary of the death of Sister Lucie

On 13th February, 2005, Sister Lucie of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary died at the Carmel of Saint Teresa at Coimbra. She was 97 years old, having spent 57 of them at the Carmel, during her long pilgrimage on this earth.

The event was marked by the brothers of the Portugal Province, with a large gathering at the Carmel of Coimbra. We firstly organized a joyful fraternal meeting of

Carmelite brothers, sisters and seculars in the parlour of the Carmel. Then, Sister Angela Coelho, ASM, vice-postulatrice for the cause of Sister Lucie’s canonization, gave a conference in the chapel of the Carmel, entitled: ‘Sister Lucie, a life between the Serra d’Aire and Mount Carmel’. Indeed, Sister Lucie’s earthly pilgrimage – at times happy, at times very painful – took place between her time as a shepherdess at the Serra d’Aire and

then her time as a Carmelite, ascending Mount Carmel, at Coimbra.

Later, at 6 o'clock, the Bishop of Coimbra, Mgr Virgilio Antunes, celebrated a commemorative Eucharist in the chapel of the monastery. Besides the Carmelite brothers and sister, there were

other priests, religious brothers and sisters, as well as many of the faithful who participated.

It was a beautiful and joyful day of jubilee pilgrimage and our hearts opened, we decided to walk the long road of Yes, walking in the steps of the Lord.

Central Africa: 10th Meeting of the Carmelite Superiors of francophone Africa and Madagascar

The annual meeting of Carmelite Superiors of francophone Africa and Madagascar was held at Bangui from the 20th to the 24th January. For the first time, our meeting took place at the delegation of Central Africa, now blessed with forty brothers. We shared much on formation, which is a major point in our young African circumscriptions. The conference organized some time ago a 'second novitiate' for the future solemn professed brothers, and this year it launched online formation courses

for formators. It is also appropriate to think now of permanent formation, in several different domains. Alongside our discussions, we were able to visit our brothers' convent under construction, and have a memorable meeting with Cardinal Dieudonné Nazpalainga, archbishop of Bangui, who has worked productively with a Protestant pastor and an imam to prevent the civil war that has ravaged the country since 2013 from turning into a religious war.

Lebanon: Visit of the relics of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

The Committee of Preparation for the visit of the relics of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus held a press conference on Tuesday, 11th February 2025, at the Catholic Media Center, sponsored by Archbishop His Grace Antoine Nabil Al-Andari, and

in the presence of several media representatives. Mr. Fadi Fayad (President of the coordinating committee) thanked His Excellency Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi for having asked him and Father Michel Abboud OCD (President of Caritas Lebanon), Father Hadi

Daou (Secretary of the Maronite Patriarchate) and Father Charles Sawaya, to prepare and organize this visit.

Therese will come to Lebanon from 13th June to 19th July, 2025. This visit occurs in the context of the centenary of her canonization on 17th May, 1925 at Rome. The Committee desires that the relics traverse Lebanon all the way from the

ravaged south to the north, and that they pass a large number of parishes, churches and monasteries.

The motto of this visit will be « Voyage to Lebanon for Love and Peace ». Let us pray that this visit, at a time of great changes, will be a visit that brings hope and peace for the Lebanese people, and a blessing for their land.