

## India: Fr Charles Serrao OCD Appointed Pontifical Commissary for the Rosarian Congregation

**O**n 2 April, Fr Charles Serrao OCD, belonging to the Karnataka-Goa Province, has been appointed Pontifical Commissary for the Rosarian Congregation by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for a period of six years. It follows Fr Charles Serrao's 19-month-long involvement with the Congregation. Now, he will serve in place of their Su-

perior General, supported by four appointed assistants.

The Rosarian Congregation was founded on 2 February 1928 in Sri Lanka, and today has 178 members spread across India, Sri Lanka, Canada, and the USA. We extend to Fr Charles our prayerful wishes and assure him of our continued support as he undertakes this important mission for the good of the Church and the Rosarian Congregation.

## Malaysia: 9<sup>th</sup> OCDS National Congress 2025

**F**rom the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the OCDS communities of Malaysia held their triennial National Congress at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Five friars and more than 54 participants attended the grand event. The congress was honored to have the Delegate General to the OCDS, Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD, and the Definitor General, Fr. Christianus

Surinono, OCD, as well as the Delegate General of Singapore-Thailand-Malaysia Delegation, Fr. Anselm Phang, OCD, and two Spiritual Assistants Fr. Nicholas Hoh, OCD and Fr. Chin Sin Wee, OCD. Inspired by the jubilee year 2025, "*Jesus, our Hope*" was chosen as the Congress theme and the friars gave insightful talks. Alongside engaging in robust discus-

sions, including reviewing progress and charting the course for future planning, the election of new triennial National Council was held. Overall, it was a fruitful 4-day congress that dealt with the business aspects of the Order, providing opportunities to collectively assess

achievements and lessons learned, along with showcasing cultural performances from the respective communities. The energy and commitment displayed by the members were truly inspiring, reaffirming the strength and unity of the national fraternity.

## Philippines: Blessing of new novitiate house

**O**n 26 April 2025, the Philippine Province of St. Teresa of Jesus celebrated the blessing of the newly completed building of St. Elijah Convent and Novitiate House in the Diocese of Malaybalay, Philippines. The occasion was graced by the presence of Most Rev. Noel Pedregosa, Bishop of Malaybalay, who presided over the Eucharistic celebration, during which the convent chapel was dedicated, and the blessing of the novitiate house.

The Convent was canonically established as a religious house of the Order through a decree issued by the Father General

dated 12 September 2024, the Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary. On the same date, the seat of the novitiate in the Province, previously located at the Holy Family Convent in the Archdiocese of Davao, Philippines, was canonically erected at the said convent.

In the coming canonical year, the new novitiate house will welcome eight novices: three Filipinos and two Vietnamese from the Philippine Province, a Taiwanese from the Korean Province, and a Malaysian and a Singaporean from the General Delegation of Singapore-Thailand-Malaysia.

## Malawi: Canonical Erection of St John of the Cross OCDS community

**O**n May 10, 2025, in the serene surroundings of Nyungwe, within the Archdiocese of Blantyre, the St John of the Cross OCDS community has been canonically erected. This milestone marks the culmination of a journey that began in 2007.

Secular Carmelites from across Malawi, including Holy Family OCDS in Zomba and St Teresa of Jesus in Lilongwe, gathered to witness this joyous occasion. The ceremony was graced by Provincial Delegate Fr. Ludovic Bafuta OCD, as well as the Pastoral Secretary Fr Peter

Kamtembe from Blantyre Archdiocese and other Carmelite Friars.

The central theme of the ceremony emphasized the importance of upholding the core values of prayer, fraternal living, and mutual spiritual support. Following the Eucharistic Celebration and the Rite of Canonical Election, the Malawi Delegation

gathered for a celebratory luncheon. The St John of the Cross OCDS community currently comprises 33 members, with five having made definitive promises and six with temporary promises. This new chapter in their journey promises to deepen their commitment to living out the Carmelite charism.

## OCDS meeting of CICLA South

**T**he OCDS members from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay met from 24-28 April for the OCDS meeting of CICLA South, which is held every three years. Paraguay hosted this year's meeting, which had the theme "What I ask is love to give". The meeting coincided with the centenary celebration of the birth of Blessed Maria Felicia de Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, affectionately called 'Chiquitunga'.

The event began in Asunción with a congress on the spirituality and life of this Blessed and continued in Atyrá. Fr. Carlos Alberto Medina, OCD, gave a mag-

isterial talk and the participating OCDS presented a country work on different aspects of Chiquitunga's spirituality. The event took place in a fraternal atmosphere, with moments of recreation enjoyed by all. Participants had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral Basilica of Nuestra Señora de los Milagros [Our Lady of Miracles], in Caacupé, and pass through the Holy Door. The meeting concluded on 28 April, the Feast of Blessed Maria Felicia, with a Solemn Mass at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery in Asunción, presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio to Paraguay, Monsignor Vincenzo Turturro.

## Italy: week of spirituality to celebrate the centenary of the canonisation of Little Flower

**O**ne hundred years after the canonisation of St Therese of the Child Jesus, the Semi-Province of Napoli promoted an intense week of spirituality at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Bari. The aim was to inspire people

with the 'Little Way' and help them to rediscover the beauty of a holiness accessible to all.

The week consisted of six events: two catechesis and a roundtable discussion on the contemporary relevance of the

‘Little Way’; a concert-meditation intertwined songs and texts by Thérèse; an evening vigil and Eucharistic adoration. The highlight of the event was the solemn celebration of the Eucharist, which signalled the community’s joy at the presence of the Saint among us. There was also a photo exhibition with over 40 scenes from Thérèse’s life, which was open for the entire week. Thérèse’s reliquary, which was on pilgrimage in

Apulian parishes, was displayed for veneration by the faithful.

Thérèse reminds us that even a simple soul can become great through love. With her, we learn to transform the ordinary into something extraordinary; to offer everything with love; and to see every day as an opportunity for self-giving. As she said when she appeared in our monastery in Gallipoli, ‘My way is sure, nor have I mistaken it’.

## Brazil: Symposium on the centenary of the canonisation of St Therese

‘**T**HERESE OF LISIEUX, MASTER OF HOPE’ was the theme of the symposium, which commemorated the centenary of the canonisation of St. Therese. The event took place from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 at the Teresian Centre of Spirituality in São Roque, São Paulo, Brazil. Several experts on St. Therese were in attendance, as well as numerous Carmelites, members of the OCDS, Discalced Carmelite nuns, members of various Carmelite congregations, diocesan priests, and many devotees of St Therese.

The lectures focused on the writings and doctrine of St. Therese of Lisieux, offering participants the opportunity to delve deeper into her teachings in the light of

the Jubilee Year 2025. They emphasised her relevance and doctrinal significance. Indeed, St. Therese helps us to keep the flame of hope alive. The days were intense yet enriching, filled with serene fraternal conviviality, prayer, and a deepening of the doctrine of the “Saint of Synthesis”, as Pope Francis of Blessed memory referred to her. It is worth remembering that St. Therese is much loved by the Brazilian people.

The symposium was one of the ways in which the brothers and sisters of St Therese collaborated in their mission. The Doctor of the Science of Love desired to “LOVE JESUS AND MAKE HIM LOVED” in life or after her death, on earth or in eternity.